

BARCLAYS
PREMIER LEAGUE



Red & White

OFFICIAL SUNDERLAND PROGRAMME

BOLTON WANDERERS

28 APRIL 2012 | SOL | KO: 3.00PM | £3

Skill-gallon



Co-Match Sponsor



Co-Match Sponsor



Co-Match Sponsor



Ball Sponsor



MoM Sponsor



Programme Sponsor

Ladbrokes



Official Club Sponsor

tombola

Official Kit Sponsor



tombola™

Britain's biggest bingo site



Get £20 FREE

Simply deposit £10 and play with £30



Terms apply, first deposit only. Over 18s only. gambleaware.co.uk

Official Club Sponsor



INSIDE THIS ISSUE...

- 3 Welcome
- 4 Today's game
- 6 Manager's column
- 8 View from the Boardroom - Margaret Byrne
- 10 Club news
- 14 Cats' Eyes - Seamus McDonagh and Craig Gordon
- 17 Top Catt
- 18 Cats' Tales - Wolves
- 20 Academy & Reserve fixtures
- 22 Reserves
- 23 Academy
- 24 Development News & Loan Watch
- 25 Academy profile - Mikael Mandron
- 27 Welcome to today's visitors
- 29 Scouting Report
- 30 Visitors' pen pics
- 33 Opposition View - Kevin Davies
- 34 View from Afar - Gudni Bergsson
- 35 Away the Lads - Eddie Hopkinson
- 37 Club Connections
- 38 Catch Fraiz - Seb Larsson v Phil Bardsley
- 41 Doug Weatherall's 70th season
- 43 Crossword & Nick Barnes
- 44 Looking for the Lads - Peter Stronach
- 47 Among Our Souvenirs
- 48 SAFC Foundation
- 51 safc.com
- 52 Cats' Tales - Aston Villa
- 55 Travelling fan - Aston Villa
- 56 The Matt Kilgallon Story
- 63 Tomorrow's Stadium of Light cup final preview
- 64 Fanzone
- 67 Junior Black Cats
- 69 Wise Men Say
- 70 High Fives - Stephane Sessegnon
- 73 Monty
- 75 SAFC Women & Hot Seat
- 77 Ticket news
- 78 Stats Story - Long Distance Operators
- 79 Player records
- 80 Cats' Stats
- 82 Red and White Diary
- 84 Line ups



With the changing names of the leagues in 1992 and 2004 we refer to the levels of the leagues by their current names, for example Sunderland won the equivalent of what is now 'The Championship' in 1976 when back then it was called The Second Division.

Top-Flight Champions:

1892, 1893, 1895, 1902, 1913 & 1936

'Championship' Winners:

1976, 1996, 1999, 2005, 2007

'League One' Winners:

1988

FA. Cup Winners:

1937 & 1973

Top Flight Runners

Up: 1894, 1898, 1901, 1923 & 1935

'Championship' Runners

Up: 1964 & 1980 (Promoted: 1990)

FA. Cup Finalists:

1913 & 1992

League Cup Finalists:

1985

» COVER PICTURE

Matt Kilgallon is enjoying his best spell since coming to the club.

» PROGRAMME PUZZLE

Can you work out the player from today's visitors from these pictures?

Here's Sunderland's Lee Cattermole as an example.



LEEK



CAT



ER



MOLE



Find the answer on page 82.

» RED AND WHITE STICKERS

Every issue of Red and White should include a set of stickers. Please check your stickers are included as you purchase your programme and if they are missing inform your programme seller immediately. We apologise but we will be unable to provide any missing stickers unless you inform your seller immediately. Because of the thickness of the paper the stickers are on we cannot insert them into the programme as an extra page as we did with cards last season. If we did so the spine might break on your programme. Stickers are in every Barclays Premier League issue of Red and White and purchasing all 19 will enable you to complete the album without the need for swaps.

TODAY'S GAME

» IT'S NOT UNUSUAL FOR AN AWAY TEAM TO BE CONTENT WITH A POINT BUT BOLTON GO INTO TODAY'S GAME IN SEARCH OF ALL THREE AS THEY SEEK TO PRESERVE THEIR TOP FLIGHT STATUS.

Tuesday night's important victory at Villa saw Bolton establish themselves as the team with most away wins in the bottom half of the table and having equalled Tottenham and Chelsea's tally of victories on the road Sunderland will have their work cut out against a side whose away form is far better than their Barclays Premier League position would indicate.

Like Sunderland, Bolton's most recent outing was away to Aston Villa, their victory there illustrating that the lads

cannot expect to have things all their own way this afternoon.

LANDMARKS

Should Bolton score today, their first goal would be their 150th on Wearside while a win for the visitors would be their 50th league victory over Sunderland and also their 150th Premier League.

THREE TO LEVEL

Despite only collecting 11 points from the first 14 games before Martin O'Neill took over, Sunderland can equal their total of points from all of last season with a win this afternoon.

MISSING

Craig Gardner misses today's game through suspension. As Martin O'Neill explains in his column overleaf both

Seb Larsson and Kieran Richardson are ruled out although there is a possibility that Lee Cattermole may be available again.

LAST TIME

With Manchester United the only remaining visitors before away fans are moved from the South Stand at the Stadium of Light this afternoon's game will be the last time that we witness away support of under 1000 behind the goal. Once again Sunderland are destined to have the biggest gate in the country today but once again the casual observer of TV highlights programmes will get the impression there's not that many people here. Chief Executive Margaret Byrne speaks about plans for the South Stand in her column on p8.

GUESS THE GATE

» Around 41,500 are expected at this afternoon's game including 850 Bolton supporters. Thank you for your tremendous support.

GOAL CHART

BENDTNER			3
GARDNER			3
BRIDGE	1		
CAMPBELL	1		
McCARTNEY	1		
RICHARDSON	1		
SESSEGNON	1		

Sunderland kick off today with the current squad having a total of 11 goals to their name against Bolton in all competitions. Bolton share with Wigan the distinction of having conceded the most goals against the current squad, the figure including a goal scored by George McCartney who is on loan at West Ham.

Craig Gardner has three career goals against the Trotters but misses today's game through suspension. Nicklas Bendtner's three strikes against Bolton

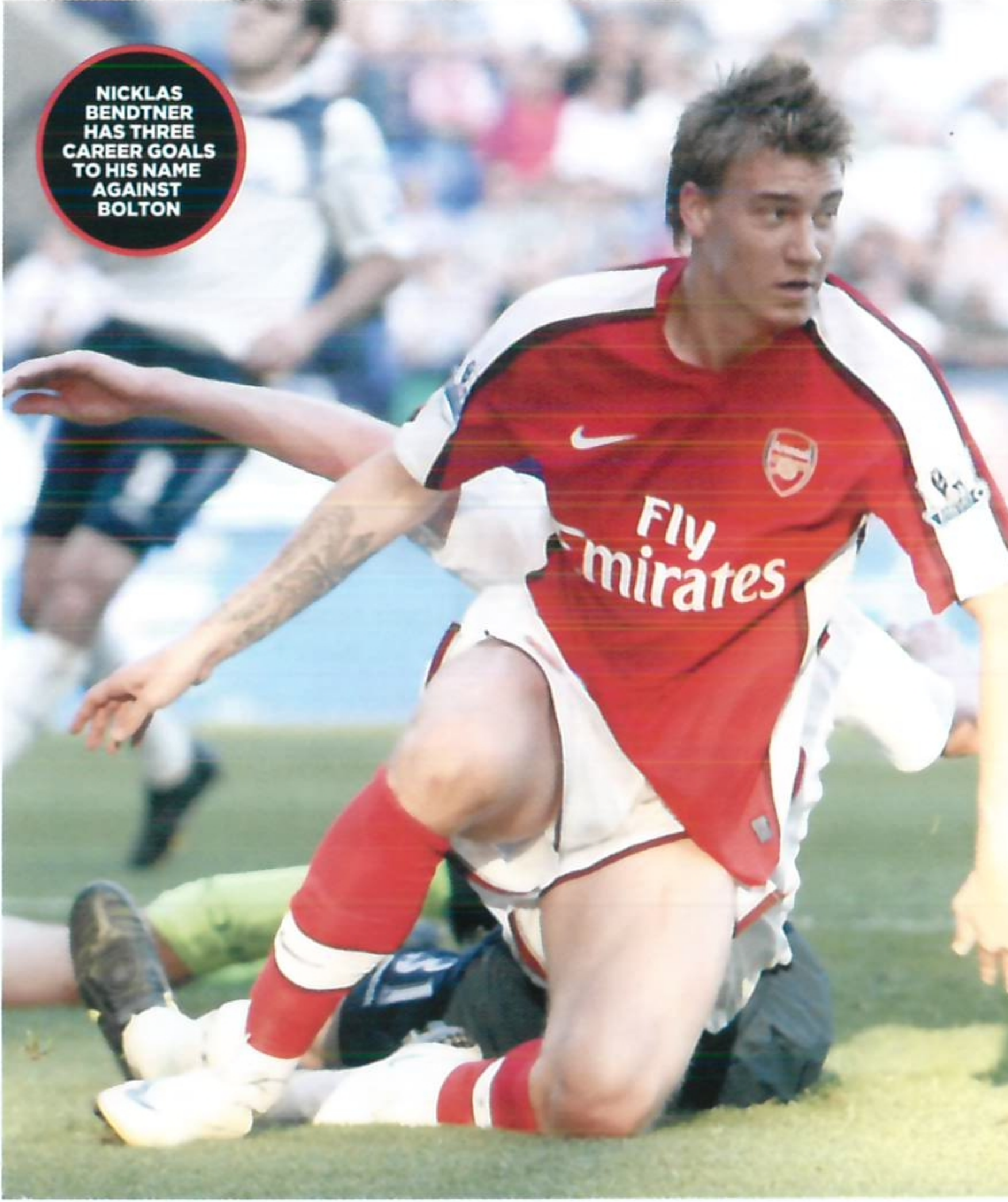
GET THE TEAM SHEET BEFORE KICK-OFF - RED & WHITE 'LIVE'!

» Have you spotted the strange-looking black and white block on the back of your programme? The little maze-like design is a QR code and is the key to unlocking the latest team news. If you've got a smart phone you'll be able to get the team sheet for both sides before the kick off.



A QR (or Quick Response) code is like a glorified bar code but contains information that many smart phone platforms (such as iPhone, Android , Symbian or Blackberry) can interpret if they have a built-in camera and a QR reader installed. In Red & White this season, the QR code will lead you to an otherwise closed part of SAFC.com to reveal the day's team line-ups from when they are announced. We aim to have them available by 25 minutes before kick-off and maybe earlier but bear with us while we try something new for you.

QR reader apps are available free of charge for most phone types and are very easy to use, so if you haven't got one on your smart phone log into your app store (for example iTunes for iPhones) download one and enjoy Red & White Live!





AWAY FANS' ROUTE HOME

Thank you to all of the fans in the visitors' section who travelled to the north east to support their team. We hope you enjoy your day on Wearside - apart from the result of course - and wish you a safe journey home. If travelling by car: to get from the stadium back on to the A19 (which leads onto the A1 via the A690) you need to:

Turn left coming out of the stadium at the roundabout by the Colliery Inn, just past the miners' lamp you'll see outside the Sunderland ticket office. Travel along this road which is Keir Hardie Way. Go straight on at all traffic lights until you reach the A19. You'll pass a petrol station and shop on your right before reaching the A19.



FLICK FRAME

» Flick the pages of your programme from front to back and the small picture in the top right hand corner of the odd numbered pages will show you Seb Larsson's goal from outside the box in the draw at Manchester City. See p79 for a feature on Sunderland's long distance goals this season.

include one this season for Sunderland and two in the 2008-09 campaign for Arsenal, a goal in a 3-1 triumph at the Reebok and the winner at the Emirates.

GOALLESS DRAWS

Three goalless draws in the last four games have taken the seasonal tally to five. The last time Sunderland had more nil-nils than this in the top flight was in 1948-49 when the six goalless games included three in a row with last week's opponents Aston Villa being one of them. The last time Sunderland exceeded this season's tally of five nil-nils was in 1995-96 when there were eight such games including a late season run of four in five games. The record in the top flight is seven (1933-34) while the overall record is eight which came in the old second division in 1974-75 when the first of the nil -nils was at home to Bolton.

STRATTON'S STAT

Stratton is Red and White's crossword compiler. Try the crossword on p43.

This is Bolton's 73rd season in the top-flight of English football, this is the highest number for a team that has never won the title. Their highest finishing position was third, on three occasions, 1891-92, 1920-21 and 1924-25.

STICKER STAR

Today's stickers include one of our competition winner Bethany. The Durham youngster won the competition run earlier this season in Red and White to become a sticker star herself. If you have been collecting every Barclays Premier League issue of Red and White you should now only require the four stickers from the next issue to complete your album that we gave away when Chelsea visited in the second home game. If you are missing any programmes, back issues can be ordered - with stickers - online at safc.com or by calling 0871 9111 228.

INTERNATIONALS

Ahmed Elmohamady is back and available for

selection this afternoon. Elmo missed the last home game as he was away on international duty with Egypt. "I played 45 minutes against Nigeria who we beat 3-2, 45 minutes against Mauretania who we beat 3-0 and the full game against Iraq who we drew with 0-0" he reports. "I played right back in all of the games and enjoyed it. It was a good trip and it was nice to play some games."

Call ups have begun to be received for June's internationals. Already selected are Simon Mignolet and Stephane Sessegnon. Mignolet's Belgium entertain Montenegro on May 25th and take on England at Wembley on June 2nd. Sessegnon's Benin have World Cup qualifying games at home to Mali and Ethiopia on June 3rd and 17th with an away match in Rwanda on June 10th.

With the Olympics also taking place Fraizer Campbell has been placed on standby for the GB squad.

»MEET THE REF: LEE PROBERT (WILTSHIRE)
Age: 39 Joined National List: 2003 Joined Select Group: 2007

LAST FIVE GAMES

Date	Fixture	Competition	Score	Y	R
21/04/12	Fulham v Wigan	Barclays	2-1	3	0
17/04/12	Cardiff v Derby	Npower Champ	2-0	2	0
11/04/12	QPR v Swansea	Barclays	3-0	2	0
07/04/12	West Brom v Blackburn	Barclays	3-0	2	1
27/03/12	Sunderland v Everton	FA Cup with Budweiser	0-2	8	0

SUNDERLAND GAMES OFFICIATED SINCE 2007-08

Date	Opposition	Competition	Score	Y	R
24/01/09	Blackburn Rovers (H)	FA Cup	0-0	3	0
24/04/10	Hull City (A)	Barclays	1-0	4	2
18/10/10	Blackburn Rovers (A)	Barclays	0-0	3	1
05/02/11	Stoke City (A)	Barclays	2-3	4	0
23/04/11	Wigan (H)	Barclays	4-2	3	0
10/09/11	Chelsea (H)	Barclays	1-2	2	0
27/03/12	Everton (H)	FA Cup with Budweiser	0-2	8	0

MARTIN O'NEILL

WELCOME EVERYONE TO THIS AFTERNOON'S BARCLAYS PREMIER LEAGUE MATCH AGAINST **BOLTON WANDERERS**.

» **WELCOME TO THE PENULTIMATE HOME BARCLAYS PREMIER LEAGUE FIXTURE OF THE CAMPAIGN AS THIS AFTERNOON WE WELCOME OWEN COYLE'S BOLTON WANDERERS.**

Naturally this will be another testing occasion for us. We had a frustrating time when we last played here a fortnight ago against Wolves. The game seemed to pass us by for lengthy periods and consequently we were unable to gain a firm foothold in the match. Despite the precarious position our opponents found themselves in coming into the game they pressed strongly throughout and made life difficult for us. Wolves were eventually relegated last weekend at Molineux but they showed stern resistance against Manchester City for much of the play and their performance may well have put our game against them into a slightly lighter perspective.

That said, our intentions this week are to provide some entertaining football and obviously to try and win the game. We played much better at Villa Park last Saturday, created numerous chances which we didn't take and then a perfectly good goal by Nicklas Bendtner was overruled for an offside decision called incorrectly by the assistant referee. To compound some misery we might have felt, Craig Gardner was sent off for a second bookable offence, the second card

he received being a very unlucky call indeed.

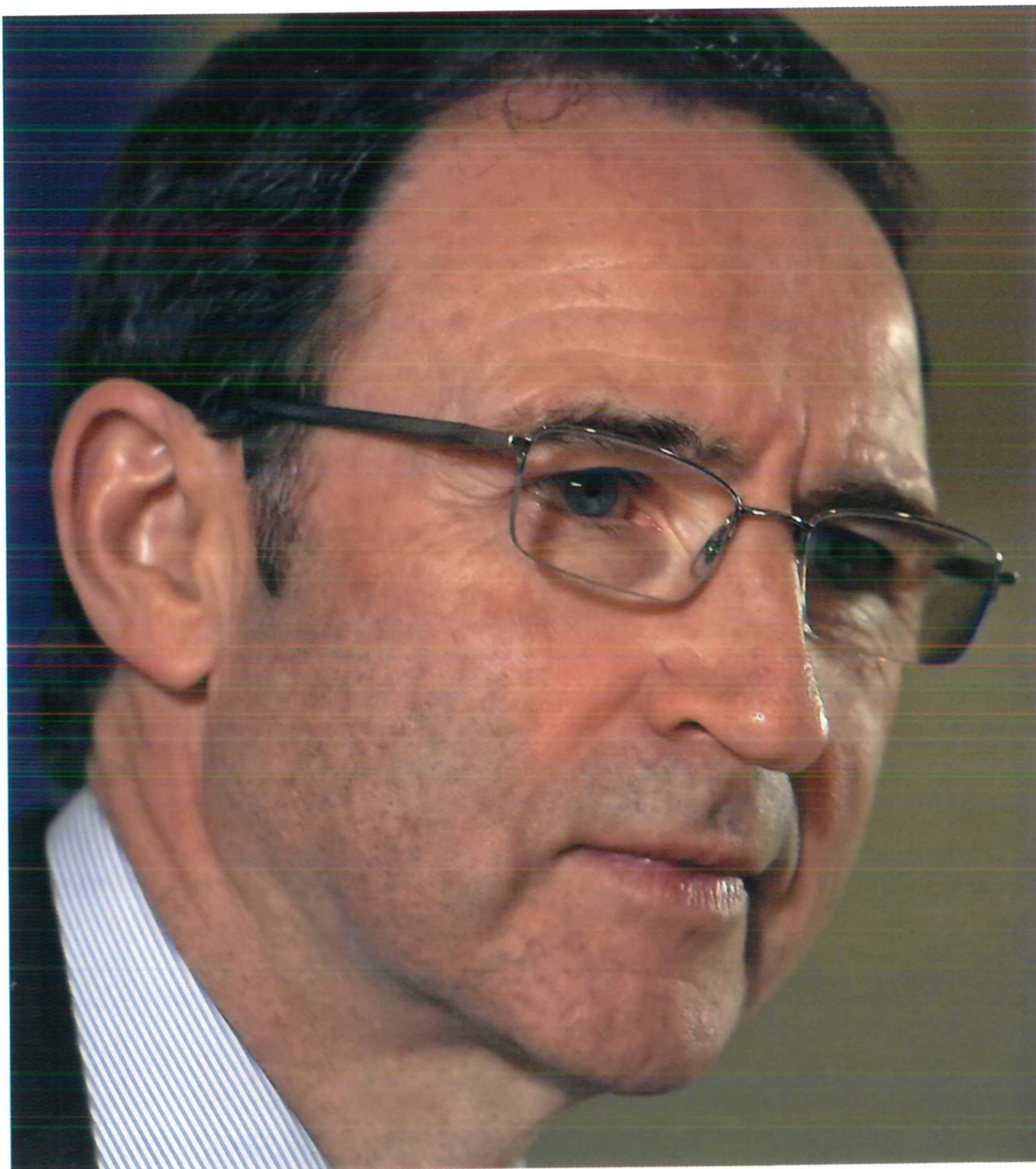
Had Nicklas's goal stood I think we probably would have gone on to win the game but the facts show that we had another scoreless draw - our third in four games - and we need to get back to the scoring form we showed against Manchester City at the Etihad Stadium a few weeks ago. In the months of December, January and February we were able to share the goals around

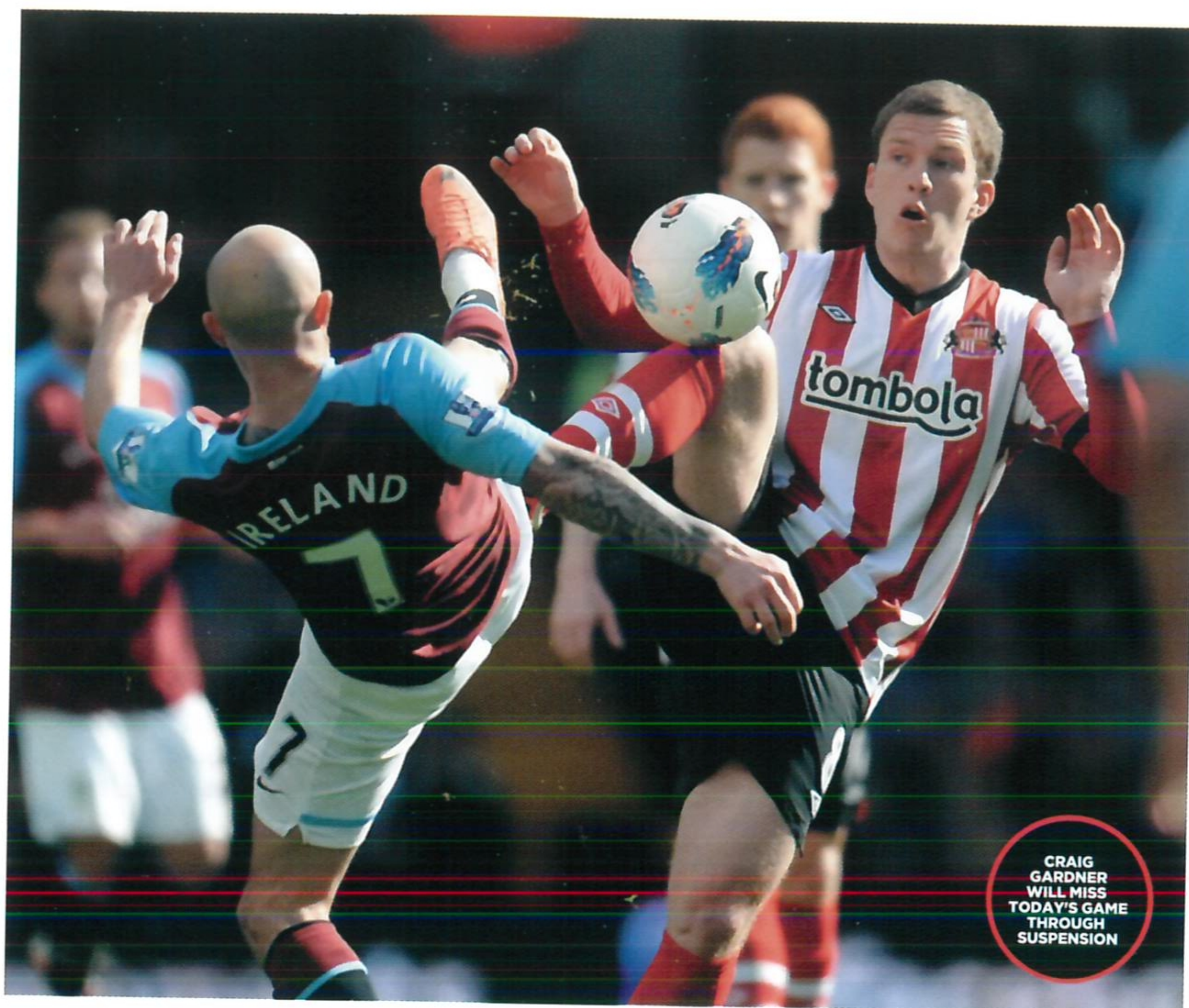
somewhat amongst the team so that may well be the case again until we get one or two players into double figures.

Defensively it seems as if we have been quite sound recently. We had a costly spell at Goodison but have managed to keep three clean sheets in our last four matches. Probably a combination of a number of things led to that. Simon Mignolet has come to the rescue, the defence have worked hard to protect the goal

and at times we have relied on midfield players helping out.

Unfortunately, today we know we will be without the services of both Seb Larsson and Kieran Richardson. Both have gone in to have surgery on hernia operations and consequently will miss the end of the season. Seb has been complaining about this for some considerable time but wished to play on as he wished to help make sure that everything was alright at the club. I





took into consideration his fitness for the Euro's. He has made a big contribution in the last few months to help us into the position we find ourselves in. Kieran's injury has come on a little more suddenly but surgeon's examination finds him with the same problem. He too will miss the test of the season. However there is a chance that Lee Cattermole might come into contention for today's game.

We warmly welcome Owen Coyle and everyone from Bolton Wanderers. It's rare that two teams go into a fixture having both played the same opposition in their previous game but that is the case today as both ourselves and Bolton go into this afternoon's clash on the back of trips to Villa Park. Bolton had a magnificent come from behind victory there on

Tuesday evening giving their battle against relegation a considerable boost and they will come here with all the confidence in the world. They also have a game in hand compared to the teams around them and that could prove pivotal when the points are gathered at the season's end.

Clearly there have been trials and tribulations at the club with the health

issues concerning Fabrice Muamba. If reports are to be believed, we are all delighted to see him making marvellous progress. It seems from the outside that the manager has dealt admirably with that whole situation. Certainly I know that Owen Coyle's team will be well organised and highly motivated for today's match.

We have accumulated 44 points with three games to go, a situation I would have been delighted with last December. However, there is no reason why we should not press on to finish as high as we possibly can. With a trip to Craven Cottage next week to face Fulham, who are one of the sides around us, and then a final day encounter with a Manchester United side who may well be seeking points to clinch the title we still have some serious challenges ahead of us.

Thank you for your support once again, enjoy the game. ①

MARTIN

» WIN THE TEAM-SHEET

Red and White gives you the chance to win a piece of rare football memorabilia. At every game there are three copies of the handwritten team-sheet filled in by each team. One copy goes to the referee, one to the opposition and the other one could be for you. That's our prize if you are our winner.

If you'd like to stand a chance of winning this rare souvenir of a game what you need to do is correctly predict the Sunderland starting line-up you think the manager will select.

Send what you think will be Sunderland's line up to Red and White by the day before a home game. If your team matches the one the manager names you could be a winner. If more than one correct entry is received a winner will be chosen at random.

Send your entries marked Teamsheet to Red and White, Stadium of Light, Sunderland SR5 1SU or email redandwhite@safc.com.



VIEW FROM THE BOARDROOM

INVEST IN AFRICA

» I ATTENDED A CONFERENCE IN JOHANNESBURG, SOUTH AFRICA LAST WEEK WITH FELLOW BOARD MEMBERS MIKE FARNAN AND GARY HUTCHINSON. IT WAS A LONG WAY TO GO FOR A VERY SHORT VISIT OF JUST TWO DAYS BUT OUR PURPOSE IN BEING THERE WAS TO PROMOTE THE CLUB AND TALK ABOUT OUR PARTNERSHIP WITH TULLOW OIL AND THE 'INVEST IN AFRICA' INITIATIVE.

Our aim was a dual one of promoting the initiative and simultaneously promoting the football club. As the African continent starts to recognise what we as a football club are trying to do in enabling people to see that Africa is open for business through the 'Invest in Africa' partnership, it can only be beneficial for our awareness and commerciality further down the line. It was certainly a worthwhile trip, not least in terms of helping the African community become increasingly aware that there are more than just four clubs in the Barclays Premier League. What we had to show people about Sunderland was excellently received by the many dignitaries and delegates as well as the representatives of other football clubs.



deserved to have won the two away matches at Manchester City and Villa in particular. But rest assured, it is as important to the players as it is to supporters to finish as high as we can in the table and the focus of our squad is sharply tuned to achieving as many points as we can from our three remaining games.

In welcoming everyone from Bolton Wanderers as we do this afternoon, we wish them well in their quest to retain their Barclays Premier League status. I am sure however that they will recognise that we have our own

agenda and need the points ourselves as we look to catch up Fulham, who we play next week and want to climb above.

All of us here at SAFC, including I've no doubt all of our supporters, along with everyone in football, was thrilled at the news that Bolton midfielder Fabrice Muamba had left hospital. We know Fabrice is a highly respected professional and we echo the widespread admiration there is throughout the country for the way in which Bolton Wanderers FC have kept a keen sense of priority and perspective since the

events of March 17th. Everyone at Sunderland offers our very best wishes to Fabrice.

SEASON CARDS

One of the really positive stories to emerge from the sale of season cards is that people are evidently really excited about the reorganisation of the south stand. The prospect that the lower stadium bowl will be full will be excellent for the atmosphere next season and in the years to come. Hopefully people will realise in seeing the small numbers of visiting supporters at recent games and again today, why this was an important thing for us to do and we are really looking forward to seeing the area behind the goal full of our own supporters next season.



PLAYERS' FOCUS

Everyone knows we need a goal but it isn't for the want of trying, as we saw at Villa Park last Saturday. We've drawn four of our last five fixtures and probably



The ‘singing end’ section is already not too far off being full, which reflects the really positive response to our plans. Some people might have imagined that a lot of fans would choose to migrate from the south west corner where a lot of singers congregate but in fact very few have moved from there.

There will be a clear segregation between the new Family Zone and the singing area. The Family Zone is an exciting initiative which will provide something special for our young supporters just starting off on what we hope will be a lifetime of support for the club. We believe the Family Zone will be a great place for kids and families to get the best out of their matchday and again it would be great to see this area lively and vibrant next season.

One of the huge positives for us has been the number of people who have taken up season cards for the first time and this sends out a message that supporters believe in us. Thank you to everyone who has taken up the early bird offers, which we greatly appreciate and if you haven’t yet signed up for next season hopefully you will join us when season cards go back on sale soon.

PRE SEASON

There has been a positive reaction to our already announced plans to participate in The Peace Cup which will take place in South Korea in July. I understand that you will also want to know where else pre-season will take us. We’ve received many more offers than we have in previous years and are weighing up the various options available to us. Once arrangements have been finalised we will make further announcements as soon as possible.

INDOOR FACILITY

In the next few weeks we will be starting to build our new indoor training facility at the Academy of Light. This will provide us with a full size training pitch which will be an invaluable addition to our facilities and the aim is that it will be completed for use before the winter months. We have applied for Category One status within the new Elite Player Performance Plan (the EPPP), which we have previously spoken about and the completion of the indoor facility is all part of enabling us to achieve this.

THANK YOU

With nine points to play for there is still a long way to go this season

and the number of points we pick up from the three remaining games will go a long way to determining our final placing, in what is a tight section of the table. However, this is my last column of the season as the Chairman will be doing the final View from the Boardroom for the visit of Manchester United. I want to thank each of you for your backing this season. The way you have got behind us, both home and away, is hugely encouraging. We are trying to achieve things for the club and as you are aware it has been a season that has brought significant changes to the club – from the board to a new and exciting managerial team. You have seen the improvement on the pitch in the second half of the campaign, while additionally we are making huge strides away from the field of play too.

I have really enjoyed my first season as Chief Executive and working with Martin and the new Board members. We are aiming to keep building the all-important momentum on the pitch, hand in hand with what goes on behind the scenes to help with this. Initiatives such as Invest in Africa and the 1879 Events Management Company are key parts of this and intended to assist what Martin and the players can achieve.

The progress that is being made leaves me feeling that our football club is going in the right direction. Hopefully three points this afternoon will accelerate the progress we believe we are making here.

Enjoy the game, 1
MARGARET BYRNE



SUNDERLAND AFC

Sunderland Stadium of Light, Sunderland SR5 1SU

Telephone: 0871 911 1200
www.safc.com

DIRECTORS

- Owner and Chairman: Ellis Short
- Vice Chairman: David Miliband MP
- Chief Executive: Margaret Byrne
- Finance Director: Angela Lowes
- Director: Per Magnus Andersson
- International and National Marketing Director: Mike Farnan
- Commercial Director: Gary Hutchinson

FOOTBALL MANAGEMENT

- Manager: Martin O’Neill
- First-team Coach: Steve Walford
- Goalkeeping Coach: Seamus McDonagh
- Chief Scout: Bryan Robson
- Reserve Team Coach: Keith Bertschin
- Head of Medical Department: Dr. Glen Rae
- Head Physiotherapist: Dave Galley
- Academy Manager: Ged McNamee

SAFC FOUNDATION

Foundation Chief Executive: Lesley Spuhler

HONORARY LIFE PRESIDENT

Sir Bob Murray CBE

CLUB NEWS

ROUND-UP OF NEWS AND VIEWS FROM **THE STADIUM OF LIGHT.**

CHIEF EXECUTIVE MARGARET BYRNE PRESENTS ANDREW LISGO WITH HIS AWARD

WELL DONE ANDREW

» CHIEF EXECUTIVE MARGARET BYRNE MADE A PRESENTATION TO MEDIA AND COMMUNICATIONS OFFICER ANDREW LISGO AT THE LAST HOME GAME.

Andrew was nominated by his colleagues for the SAFC Staff award for the first quarter of 2012 for excelling in all six of the Club's values: passion, integrity, teamwork, responsibility, welcoming & dedication.

Andrew, who started at SAFC in June 2009 as an intern from the University of Sunderland before becoming a permanent member of staff, is a contributor to Red and White. Read his interview with Craig Gordon on page 14.

TOURS

With the upcoming concerts by Coldplay, Red Hot Chili Peppers and Bruce Springsteen due at the stadium in June, preparations for the summer gigs means that stadium tours will not take place after May 16th until resuming again on July 30th. So if you are intending taking a tour make sure you contact 0871 9111224 and make a booking before the summer break.

FINED

Sunderland have been fined £30,000 after a charge of misconduct against them was found proven.

An Independent Regulatory Commission heard the case which related to the conduct of the Sunderland players towards the referee following the awarding of a penalty to Manchester City in the 43rd minute of their match on 31st March 2012.

As well as being fined, the club, which had denied the charge, was also warned as to its future conduct.

JOHN BAINBRIDGE 50 NOT OUT

Working in the Guest Ticket Collection point tucked underneath the West Stand, chances are you have passed John Bainbridge en route to your turnstile countless times and not even noticed the little cubby hole from which he operates, but the job he and wife Pauline do each match day is vital to scores of fellow match goers and is a big part of the behind the scenes activity that goes on to make sure everything runs smoothly at the Stadium of Light., writes Andrew Smithson.

Now celebrating his 50th season at the club, John, a former civil servant and teacher, started whilst still at Bede Grammar School and has been here ever since. "A friend of mine's Dad knew Alan Brown, who knew he was really interested in football so offered him a job. I came along to help him out and when he became Assistant Secretary I took over.

STADIUM OF LIGHT CUP FINALS

Tomorrow afternoon sees the Stadium of Light host the FA Carsberg Sunday Cup final. The match between Hutton Lyons and Canada FC of Liverpool kicks off at 4.00 and is previewed on p63. Also coming up is the English Schools FA Premier League U14s Cup final between Steven Gerrard's old school Cardinal Heenan and Bishop Challinor School from Hackney in London. That will take place on Tuesday May 8th with a 1.00 kick off 1.00pm.



THE STADIUM OF LIGHT IS TO HOST TWO CUP FINALS THIS SEASON, STARTING TOMORROW



"We had an office right next to the main entrance at Roker Park back then. Charlie Hurley and all of the others would come in and talk to us and leave tickets, we really were part of the scene in those days. Charlie is my greatest hero and people like him, Joe Bolton, George Herd and Martin Harvey, they were such lovely guys.

"All my friends went to Ewesley Road Youth Club and we would get tickets for the paddocks. I'd gone with my grandfather when I was a little lad so I've always been a mad keen Sunderland supporter. Then I got this job and that's been it, whatever I have ever done I have kept this on and I reckon I have missed five games at most.

"Pauline had no interest in football what so ever but I needed somebody that I could trust. Before



that my assistant was a lad that I had previously taught and he worked with me from when he was about 14 until he was over 30. Pauline is a good receptionist, can remember everybody's name and the room we work in now is so tiny that if we weren't married it could get very embarrassing, so she was the only person I could think of!

"The last place we used was a Portakabin and I turned up for a match to find it had been turned upside down and all of our stuff had been blown down the road by the wind. Before that we used the Echo promotions van so since the move to the stadium we have had a chequered existence and it has only been the last few years that we have had our own place. I even had to do the England versus Belgium match from my car because the Echo didn't send the unit down and it was the only place I could think of so I was sat there handing out tickets through the window!

"We take enormous pleasure from seeing people. The scouts and the ex players come and we love them to bits, they are so friendly. People like Cec Irwin, Colin Todd, John Dillon, they remember you from the past and as long as the queue isn't too long will stop and chat."

You are always guaranteed a friendly smile and warm welcome through the Perspex, and Red and White wish to congratulate John on his milestone year. ❶

THE NEW SAFC COMPLETE RECORD

» RED AND WHITE'S ROB MASON, MIKE GIBSON AND BARRY JACKSON ARE BUSY COMPILING AN UPDATED AND HUGELY EXPANDED VERSION OF THE COMPLETE RECORD.

The new official SAFC publication will be due for publication in late September and will include a host of completely new sections. As in the original publication there will be a detailed history of the club, an exploration of former home grounds and updated and expanded season by season records. More details will be given in the next issue of 'Legion of Light.'



Red and White is giving you this advance information on this publication as for no extra cost if you pre-order you can add your name (or the name of a loved one) into the back of the book.

To order please go directly to the publishers DB Publishing. They can

be contacted by email on sales@dbpublishing.co.uk and by phone on 01332 384235.

The hardback book which is likely to weigh in at around 600 pages costs £25. You can order to collect at the club shop or pay to have it posted to you with postage £5 per book in the UK, £14 per book in Europe and £22 per book for the rest of the world.

The first 200 orders will automatically have their books signed by the two players to have made the most appearances for the Lads: Jim Montgomery and Len Ashurst while those 200 and the next 200 to order will also receive an invitation to an exclusive signing event which will be organised in the autumn.



3663, national delivery with a local heart...

One stop shop...

Saving you time by providing your grocery, frozen, chilled and fresh foods in one shop.

Great value...

Whatever your budget we have a product that fits, from basic everyday ingredients to more indulgent lines.

Best of both...

Quality own brand products or trusted 'high street' brands - we let you choose.

Understanding your business...

Our specialist teams in every sector really understand your needs, they can provide advice and support to help your business grow.

Flexible service...

A call from telesales or order on-line, whatever works best for you.



Quality assured...

Strict quality control throughout our supply chain for your complete confidence.

Green and keen...

From waste cooking oil recycled into bio-diesel, to locally sourced products, we think green in all we do, so you can be green too.

Call 0370 3663 000 or click on
www.3663direct.co.uk to find out
how we can support you today!

**3663**



IN SUPPORT OF YOUR CLUB

TODAY'S SPONSORS

SAFC WOULD LIKE TO THANK ALL OF OUR SPONSORS AT THIS AFTERNOON'S GAME.

» BUSINESS PARTNERS



University of
Sunderland

necc
North East Chamber of Commerce

» CO-MATCH SPONSORS



» BALL SPONSOR

Peterlee Electrical
Wholesale Ltd

» PROGRAMME SPONSOR

Ladbrokes

» MAN OF THE MATCH SPONSOR



» KIT SPONSOR



» TODAY'S MASCOTS

We have five matchday mascots joining our Junior Black Cats mascot (as featured on page 67) on the pitch today.

Luke is 11 years old and names Stephane Sessegnon as his favourite player. His hobbies include bike scrambling. Garon is also 11 and a fan of Sessegnon, though he also like James McClean too. Shannon and Zoe are two 12 year-olds and include Phil Bardsley and Fraizer Campbell among their top Black Cats performers. Shannon enjoys running, music and dancing, while Zoe enjoys playing her guitar and shopping! Representing the visitors today is nine years old Thomas, who names Stuart Holden, Chung Yong Lee and David N'Gog as his best Bolton players.

» ASSOCIATE SPONSORS



BAXTER &
PATTISON
DECORATORS



COLLIERY
TAVERN



» MAN OF THE MATCH

Stephane Sessegnon was named as the Sunderland Man of the Match after the last home game against Wolves and is pictured receiving his award from guests of sponsors MacEuropean Freight. Picking up the award for the visitors was Karl Henry.

VICE PRESIDENTS: TOM MAXFIELD, EDDIE SHOTTON, STEVEN WOOD

CATS' EYES



CRAIG GORDON

BY ANDREW LISGO

» **LAST SEASON WHEN BOLTON WANDERERS CAME TO THE STADIUM OF LIGHT, GOALKEEPER CRAIG GORDON PROVIDED ONE OF THE BEST SAVES THE BARCLAYS PREMIER LEAGUE HAS EVER SEEN.**

Exaggeration? No.

The Scottish shot-stopper's left-handed wonder save from Zat Knight has been shortlisted for the best save in the 20 years of Premier League football.

Knight's outstretched leg should have put the ball in the back of the net from all of three yards, however quick reactions from former Hearts man Gordon clawed the ball from crossing the line to tip it over the crossbar.

The save has made the final shortlist of 10 stops for the best save in the Barclays Premier League history where he is joined by goalkeepers such as

Peter Schmeichel, Brad Friedel and Joe Hart, something that Gordon admits is very flattering:

"I've not watched all the saves nominated yet but to be on that list is a great honour alongside some of the names on there that have been in the league for a number of years. I'm delighted to be involved in the list so hopefully I can do well in the nominations.

"You look at the list and people like Schmeichel are in there. He is probably the best 'keeper the Premier League has seen with a legendary status so it's great to be involved but I just hope the Sunderland fans get voting!"

When the goalkeeper made the save last season he was surrounded by his team-mates who rushed to congratulate him on his quick reactions to stop the shot, however whilst they all celebrated Gordon kept his cool and focus through all the adrenaline:

"You have to keep your focus after a save which is very important. I think

that's why you don't really see goalkeepers celebrating too much after a save but at the time it's probably as important as a goal at the other end you could say.

"You can't dwell on it too much because you could slip up just moments later then it's all for nothing. The save against Bolton last year meant we went on to win 1-0 and kept a clean sheet so that's when the saves take on added importance and people will then talk about them."

Keeping his cool off the pitch, Gordon remains very modest when talking about the save that helped his side earn three points against today's visitors when they visited the Stadium of Light last season. Whilst many Sunderland supporters will say it's the best save they have seen at the Stadium of Light and are keen to remind him of the triumph, the Scotsman won't 'big up' his save too much:

"It's difficult to say what the best save is that I have ever done in terms

of overall importance but the one against Bolton was definitely up there and probably is the best save. Hopefully when I get back to playing games then I can add a few more spectacular saves in my career. These types of saves can be ones that goalkeepers are remembered for and it's definitely one that I'll remember for a very long time.

"At the time I didn't really know how I managed to keep the ball out and turn it over the bar. I managed to flick it upwards and get a bit of spin on it as well which somehow managed to get the ball over the bar. Saves like that don't happen very often but when they do come off it can look quite spectacular." ❶

Supporters can vote for Craig Gordon's save as the best the Premier League has ever seen by logging onto www.premierleague.com and clicking on the link for 20 season awards before Monday 30th April.

SEAMUS McDONAGH

BY LEE MARSHALL

» **BOLTON MAY ARRIVE ON WEARSIDE WARY OF AN USUAL THREAT THIS AFTERNOON: SUNDERLAND'S GOAL KICKS AND 'KEEPER CLEARANCES.**

Far from analysing the origins of the 67 goals Owen Coyle's side have shipped in the Barclays Premier League this season - the third leakiest record in the top-flight and including a wind-assisted strike from Everton 'keeper Tim Howard in January - to illustrate patterns of play, there is a far simpler - if lesser-known - reason.

Step forward Seamus McDonagh, the Black Cats' goalkeeping coach and the man whose record for the most consecutive league appearances in a Bolton shirt still stands today.

Not missing a single game between October 1976 and May 1980 and returning after a move to Everton, he kicked his way even further into Wanderers folklore on a windy afternoon at Burnden Park in January 1983, scoring from his own penalty area in a 3-0 win over Burnley after a few audacious attempts.

"I loved my time at Bolton," recalls McDonagh on a blustery afternoon at the Academy of Light, his old friend the wind whipping off the North Sea coast and across the training ground. "I might have been the only goalkeeper to ever score at Burnden Park!

"We played Burnley on a really windy day and I had a go in the second-half. There was a little wind tunnel at the town end and in it went.

"The celebration was well over the top," he remembers fondly. "American football was being watched in this

country so I played the banjo, drew the pistols out and fired them, slid on my knees. The crowd went mad!

"After that, I passed it out to the striker with a half volley and they booed me, taking the Mickey, then shouted 'shoot' when I was taking goal kicks.

"I played a huge amount of consecutive games at Bolton, which is still a record. My wife and I met some great people there and still have friends in Bolton. It's a good club, a proper football club. We had a great time there."

Leaving Wanderers for a second time just months later, McDonagh would navigate his way around a number of English Football League clubs including Sunderland, before a stint across the Atlantic and a journey into coaching, from which he would eventually join Martin O'Neill's backroom set-up.



Now a popular figure behind the scenes at the Stadium of Light, the affable 59-year-old is charged with putting Sunderland's glut of international goalkeepers through their paces on a daily basis, with Scotland's Craig Gordon, Ireland's Keiren Westwood and Belgium's Simon Mignolet all vying for that solitary place between the sticks.

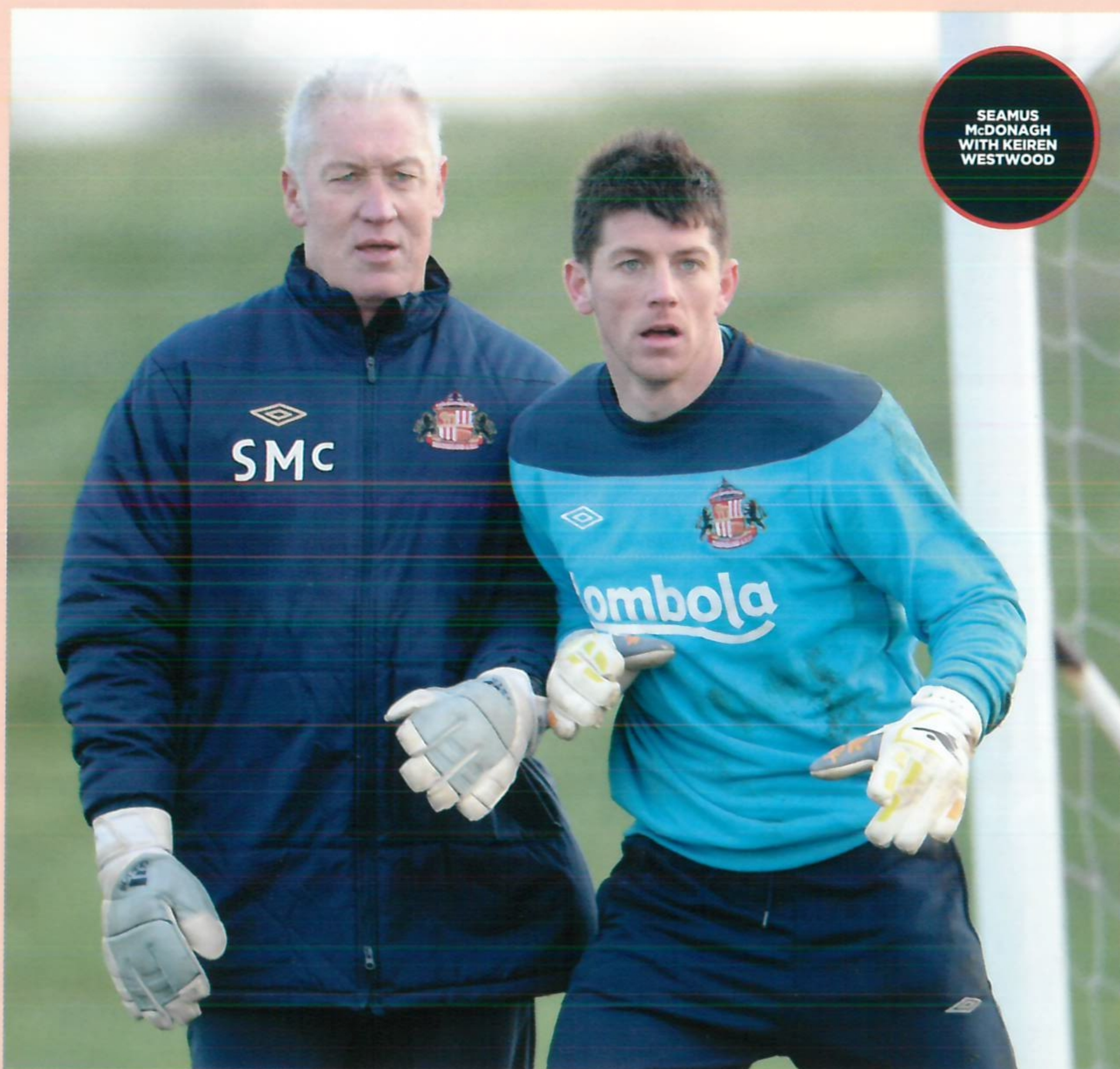
"When you start coaching, you're still a goalkeeper," Seamus comments. "You're doing the work they do, all of the kicking. As you get older, you can't do it as much but you get a feel of how the players are doing or when to give them a rest. It's also a case of being proactive and positive with them.

"I'm really enjoying it. I've never had three full internationals competing for the same shirt before. It's terrific. They get on but they're competitive so it makes the sessions bright and lifts it.

"The three could play in the Barclays Premier League right now, which is fantastic. I'm comfortable with any one of them in goal. It's the best thing I can say about them. I'm fine on the bench when they're playing, that's the nice thing.

"I watch the team mainly but obviously I'm keyed on the goalkeeping situations, when the ball comes through the back-four or there's a cross or set play. But once they cross the white line it's down to them and they take all the credit, which they deserve."

Should one of them do the unthinkable and get a wind-assisted goal today, you might just know who else to thank. 1





STRONGBOW®

HARD EARNED



**THE UK'S NO.1 CIDER
CONTINUING TO PROUDLY SUPPORT
SUNDERLAND AFC**

Official Beer & Cider supplier

drinkaware.co.uk for the facts
Over 18's only.





WITH CAPTAIN **LEE CATTERMOLE.**

» **TWO GOALLESS
DRAWS AGAINST
WOLVES AND
VILLA HAVE KEPT
THE POINTS TALLY
TICKING OVER
BUT HAVE NOT
DONE MUCH FOR
OUR PLACE IN THE
BARCLAYS PREMIER
LEAGUE TABLE SO A
WIN THIS AFTERNOON
IS SOMETHING WE
ARE SET ON.**

We always want to win of course and after a couple of games where we felt we could and probably should have won we're doubly determined to come out on top today.

Simply looking at our recent results you can understand if people think we've eased off but the scorelines don't tell the tale. All of the lads are fully focussed on trying to finish the season as strongly as possible. If anyone wasn't pulling their weight they'd quickly be brought to book by the rest of the squad. Last weekend at Villa Park you could say we did everything but score although in fact that wouldn't quite be true because we did score what looked to be a perfectly good goal only to have it ruled out for offside. It was a pity because Nic (Nicklas Bendtner) applied a really well controlled finish having stretched to reach what was a terrific cross from Seb Larsson. On another day Nic might have had a hat trick because as well as beating Shay Given, but not the assistant referee, with the disallowed goal he had



another shot cleared off the line by Stephen Ireland and nodded a first half close range header just over the bar. James McClean and Seb went close to scoring as well and really talking about the game on Monday I don't think the lads could believe they hadn't got a goal or two.

Chances were certainly not as forthcoming in the Wolves game here a fortnight ago although there were openings, Seb and James in particular going close.

Fair play to Wolves who were in a desperate situation but still came and made a game of it. I admired their refusal to throw the towel in and in fact we needed a good late save from Simon (Mignolet) to stop them possibly claiming what would have been a shock win.

This afternoon we'll have another testing time against Bolton Wanderers who are scrapping for survival but unlike Wolves have a real chance of achieving their target. Having caught up the pack with a vital win at Villa in midweek Bolton will be buoyant and we will have to go out there and be ready for a hard game because that is undoubtedly what we are in for. The season may be nearly over but there is a lot at stake. Bolton need the points but we have our own target of improving on last year's 10th place and we still are aiming as high as we can.

For all the pressure there is surrounding the game there is also a sense of perspective. Fabrice Muamba of course is a Bolton player and one who has a lot of friends here at Sunderland. I played alongside him for

England Under-21s and several of the lads here have played with him at Birmingham, Arsenal and on international duty. All of us are thrilled to bits to see him out of hospital and wish him all the very best. Similarly a lot of the lads as well as the manager and coaching staff know Stilyan Petrov well at Aston Villa and likewise we extend our very best to 'Stan.'

Thank you for your support once again this afternoon. We've an important game at Fulham to come and potentially a real cracker with Manchester United here on the final day of the season but for now all of our intention is on equalling last season's points tally which we'll do with a win today.

Enjoy the game, **1**

Lee

CATS' TALES

SUNDERLAND 0 WOLVERHAMPTON WANDERERS 0,
BARCLAYS PREMIER LEAGUE, SATURDAY 14TH APRIL.

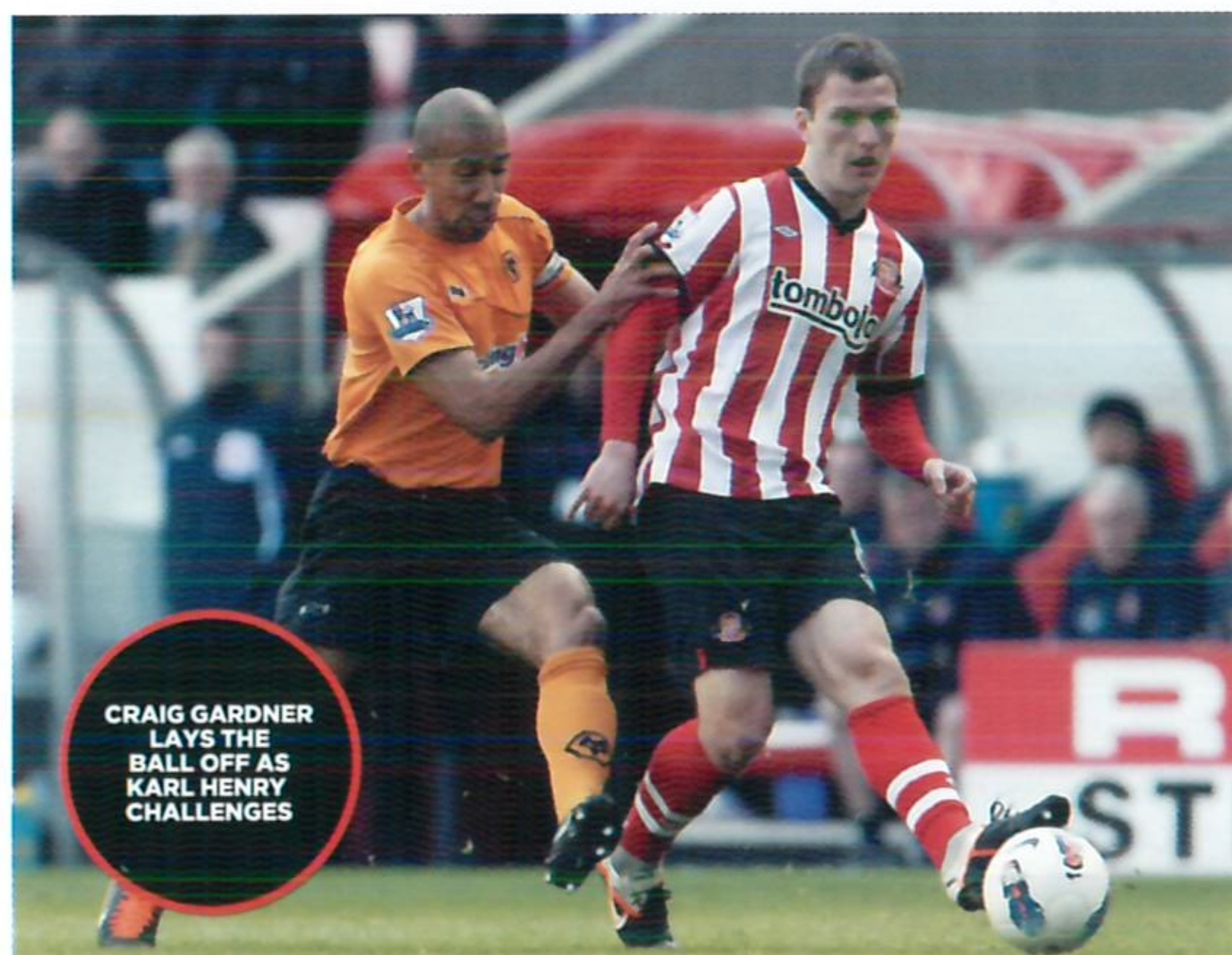


» **SOMETIMES GOALLESS DRAWS CAN BE THRILLING GAMES FULL OF DRAMA AND GOALMOUTH ACTION. THIS WASN'T ONE OF THEM. SUNDERLAND STARTED BRIGHTLY - TWO CORNERS IN THE FIRST THREE MINUTES PRECEDED AN EARLY CHANCE FOR SEB LARSSON. PUT IN BY NICKLAS BENDTNER, THE SWEDE SHOWED QUICK FEET BEFORE DRILLING HIS SHOT INTO THE SIDE NETTING.**

young Irishman to fire into the side netting.

From then on in though Wolves dug in and fought for what would prove to be the last point they gained before the mathematical certainty of relegation was confirmed a week later. McClean threatened again with a header from a Gardner cross while two minutes from time Larsson looked on forlornly after turning a Sessegnon cross inches over.

At the other end Simon Mignolet remained mainly a spectator but had to be at his sharpest to save an Anthony Forde snapshot just short of the hour mark and to keep out a goalbound header from Steven Fletcher late on. 1



» MATCHFACTS

- Jack Colback made his 50th appearance for Sunderland.
- Matt Kilgallon made his 200th League start.
- Wolves achieved their first clean sheet since August
- The point was the first one won by Sunderland in five games against Wolves.
- Wolves achieved their first point since their previous visit to the north east.
- Wolves' Sebastien Bassong missed the game through suspension.
- Ahmed Elmohamady was unavailable due to international duty.



SIMON MIGNOLET
KEPT ANOTHER
CLEAN SHEET



AN
OPERATION
MEANS SEB
LARSSON WON'T
BE SEEN AT THE
STADIUM OF LIGHT
AGAIN THIS
SEASON

RESERVES & UNDER - 18 s

CAT STATS

RESERVES FIXTURE LIST - SEASON 2011-12									
F/A	DATE	OPPONENTS	H/A	KO	VENUE	SAFC SCORERS			
AUGUST 2011									
L 2-3	Mon 15th	Chelsea	A	2.05pm	Cobham TG	TOUNKARA, DEACON	CARSON	LAING	EGAN
W 3-1	Wed 24th	Wolverhampton W.	H	2.00pm	Academy	TOUNKARA, KILGALLON, KNOTT	CARSON	NOSWORTHY	LIDDLE
SEPTEMBER 2011									
W 2-0	Tue 13th	Swansea City	H	2.00pm	Academy	COOK (2)	WESTWOOD	BAGNALL	LAING
W 1-0	Wed 21st	Gateshead FC (CL Cup)	H	7.00pm	Eppleton	DEACON	PICKFORD	MARRS	BAGNALL
L 0-3	Tue 27th	West Bromwich Albion	A	2.00pm	Training Ground	-	PICKFORD	NOSWORTHY	EGAN
OCTOBER 2011									
W 3-1	Tue 4th	Wigan Athletic	H	7.00pm	Eppleton	LYNCH, TOUNKARA, DEACON	WILSON	MARRS	NOSWORTHY
L 0-2	Tue 18th	Everton	A	2.00pm	Finch Farm TG	-	KING	MARRS	LAING
W 6-1	Wed 26th	Hartlepool Utd (CL Cup)	A	7.00pm	Billingham Town	GUERIN-LOKONGA, DEACON, RY NOBLE (P), COOK, LYNCH (2)	WILSON	BAGNALL	LAING
NOVEMBER 2011									
W 2-0	Tue 1st	Blackburn Rovers	H	2.00pm	Academy	COOK, HANLEY (OG)	KING	MARRS	LAING
D 2-2	Tue 8th	Bolton Wanderers	A	7.00pm	Lancs FA	REED (2)	KING	MARRS	LAING
W 3-0	Wed 16th	Newcastle United	H	7.00pm	Stadium of Light	RY NOBLE (3)	CARSON	LAING	EGAN
L 1-5	Tue 22nd	Liverpool	A	2.00pm	Liverpool Academy	RY NOBLE	KING	MARRS	LAING
W 7-0	Tue 29th	Scunthorpe Utd (CL Cup)	H	2.00pm	Academy	McCLEAN (2), JI (2) RY NOBLE (3)	CARSON	BAGNALL	BRAMBLE
DECEMBER 2011									
W 6-3	Tue 6th	Manchester United	H	7.00pm	Eppleton	MEYLER, GARDNER, RY NOBLE (4)	CARSON	BAGNALL	BRAMBLE
D 2-2	Tue 20th	Hull City (CL Cup)	A	7.00pm	North Ferriby United	LAING, TOUNKARA	WILSON	MARRS	EGAN
JANUARY 2012									
W 2-0	Wed 4th	Arsenal	A	1.00pm	London Colney	RY NOBLE, KNOTT	GORDON	LAING	TURNER
W 3-1	Mon 9th	Blackburn Rovers	A	7.00pm	Leigh Sports Village	CAMPBELL, LAING, REED	GORDON	MARRS	BAGNALL
W 1-0	Tue 24th	Bolton Wanderers	H	7.00pm	Eppleton	LYNCH	GORDON	MARRS	BAGNALL
FEBRUARY 2012									
D 3-3	Tue 14th	Liverpool	H	1.00pm	Academy	REED (P), LYNCH, WISDOM (OG)	KING	MARRS	EGAN
MARCH 2012									
D 3-3	Thur 8th	Newcastle United	A	7.00pm	Sports Direct Arena	TOUNKARA (2), RY NOBLE	WILSON	MARRS	BAGNALL
L 0-1	Thurs 15th	Everton	H	7.00pm	Eppleton	-	WILSON	MARRS	BAGNALL
L 1-2	Wed 21st	Fulham	H	2.00pm	Academy	MITCHELL	PICKFORD	MARRS	BAGNALL
L 0-3	Wed 28th	Wigan Athletic	A	2.00pm	Robin Park Arena	-	WILSON	MARRS	BAGNALL
APRIL 2012									
D 1-1	Tue 3rd	Norwich City	A	2.00pm	Colney Training Centre	DEACON	WILSON	MARRS	EGAN
L 0-2	Tue 10th	Aston Villa	H	2.00pm	Academy	-	WILSON	MARRS	BAGNALL
L 2-3	Wed 18th	Derby County (CLC SF)	A	2.00pm	Pride Park	MITCHELL, MANDRON	GORDON	MARRS	BAGNALL
MAY 2012									
	Fri 4th	Manchester Utd NEW DATE	A	7.00pm	Altrincham FC				

PREMIER ACADEMY LEAGUE - UNDER-18 - SEASON 2011-12									
F/A	DATE	OPPONENTS	H/A	KO	SAFC SCORERS				
AUGUST 2011									
W 1-0	Sat 20th	Crystal Palace	A	12.00	LAIDLER	PICKFORD	Re NOBLE	McNAMEE	
L 2-3	Sat 27th	West Ham United	H	11.00	BRACE, CALLAGHAN	PICKFORD	Re NOBLE	McNAMEE	
SEPTEMBER 2011									
L 1-3	Sat 3rd	Blackburn Rovers	A	12.30	THOMAS	PICKFORD	OLIVER	LAVENDER	
L 1-2	Sat 10th	Stoke City	H	11.00	MITCHELL	PICKFORD	OLIVER	BURN	
W 2-1	Sat 17th	Bolton Wanderers	A	12.30	HOPE, THOMAS	DIXON	MARRS	LAVENDER	
L 1-2	Sat 24th	Huddersfield Town	H	12.00	HOLLAND	DIXON	OLIVER	BURN	
OCTOBER 2011									
L 0-4	Sat 1st	Newcastle United	A	11.00	-	KING	MARRS	BURN	
W 2-1	Sat 8th	Sheffield Wednesday	H	12.00	MITCHELL, THOMAS	DIXON	Re NOBLE	GIBBONS	
L 3-4	Sat 15th	Barnsley	H	12.00	BRACE, MITCHELL, LAIDLER	DIXON	Re NOBLE	GIBBONS	
W 2-1	Sat 29th	Middlesbrough	A	11.00	LANE, GORRIN	PICKFORD	OLIVER	BURN	
NOVEMBER 2011									
D 2-2	Sat 5th	Nottingham Forest	H	1.00	LAIDLER, MITCHELL	MADDISON	Re NOBLE	GIBBONS	
D 0-0	Sat 12th	Leeds United	A	12.00	-	PICKFORD	OLIVER	GIBBONS	
L 1-2	Tues 29th	Nottingham Forest FAYC R3	H	7.00	HONEYMAN	PICKFORD	Re NOBLE	LAVENDER	
DECEMBER 2011									
L 1-2	Sat 3rd	Derby County	A	1.00	THOMAS	PICKFORD	MARTIN	GIBBONS	
D 2-2	Fri 9th	Barnsley	A	12.00	MANDRONE, LAIDLER	MADDISON	OLIVER	LAVENDER	
JANUARY 2012									
W 3-0	Sat 7th	Nottingham Forest	A	1.00	MANDRON, THOMAS (P), CARTWRIGHT	PICKFORD	OLIVER	McNAMEE	
L 0-2	Sat 14th	Leeds United	H	12.00	-	PICKFORD	Re NOBLE	BURN	
L 1-3	Sat 21st	Sheffield United	A	12.00	THOMAS	MADDISON	OLIVER	McNAMEE	
L 0-3	Sat 28th	Derby County	H	1.00	-	MADDISON	OLIVER	LAVENDER	
FEBRUARY 2012									
D 2-2	Sat 18th	Newcastle United	H	11.00	CALLAGHAN, LAIDLER	DIXON	CARTWRIGHT	GIBBONS	
W 3-0	Sat 25th	Sheffield Wednesday	A	12.00	OG, LAIDLER, HOLLAND	PICKFORD	CARTWRIGHT	GIBBONS	
MARCH 2012									
W 5-2	Sat 3rd	Crewe Alexandra	H	1.00	MANDRON (3), LAWSON, LANE	DIXON	CARTWRIGHT	McNAMEE	
D 3-3	Sat 10th	Manchester United	A	12.00	LAIDLER (P), HOLLAND, THOMAS	DIXON	CARTWRIGHT	BURN	
L 2-5	Sat 17th	Liverpool	H	11.00	MANDRON, OLIVER	DIXON	CARTWRIGHT	GIBBONS	
L 0-2	Sat 31st	Manchester City	A	12.30	-	DIXON	CARTWRIGHT	McNAMEE	
APRIL 2012									
W 2-0	Sat 14th	Middlesbrough	H	11.00	THOMAS, MANDRON	DIXON	CARTWRIGHT	GIBBONS	
W 4-1	Sat 21st	Wolverhampton W.	H	1.00	THOMAS, OLIVER, MANDRON, CALLAGHAN	DIXON	CARTWRIGHT	GIBBONS	
	Sat 28th	Sheffield Utd	H	12.00	NEW DATE				
MAY 2012									
	Sat 5th	Huddersfield Town	A	12.00	NEW DATE				



Games at Eppleton CW and the Stadium of Light are open to the public. Reserve team games played at The Academy are 'Behind Closed Doors' with no public access.

								sub	sub	sub	sub	sub
KILGALLON	LIDDLE	REED	KNOTT	ARMSTRONG	McCLEAN	COOK	TOUNKARA	PICKFORD	MITCHELL 60	DEACON 60	BAGNALL	LAIDLER
REED	LAING	KILGALLON	COOK	ELLIOT	TOUNKARA	KNOTT	DEACON	PICKFORD	GORRIN 82	BAGNALL 62	MARRS	WATSON
EGAN	WATSON	LYNCH	GORRIN	REED	McCLEAN	COOK	KNOTT	PICKFORD	MITCHELL 43	MARRS 46	ARMSTRONG 69	MARTIN
LAING	WATSON	DEACON	MEYLER	ARMSTRONG	McCLEAN	LYNCH	TOUNKARA	KING	KNOTT 46	REED 63	MITCHELL 80	EGAN
KILGALLON	BAGNALL	LYNCH	MEYLER	ARMSTRONG	McCLEAN	KNOTT	TOUNKARA	KING	LAING 60	DEACON 60	ELLIOTT	GORRIN
EGAN	BAGNALL	LYNCH	ELLIOTT	MEYLER	McCLEAN	COOK	TOUNKARA	KING	KNOTT 9	DEACON 77	GORRIN 85	OLIVER
EGAN	BAGNALL	ARMSTONG	MEYLER	KNOTT	McCLEAN	GUERIN-LOKONGA	COOK	WILSON	TOUNKARA 60	DEACON 73	MITCHELL	ELLIOTT
EGAN	MARRS	LYNCH	DEACON	ELLIOTT	MITCHELL	TOUNKARA	GUERIN-LOKONGA	KING	COOK 12	Ry. NOBLE 46	KNOTT 46	ARMSTRONG
EGAN	KILGALLON	LYNCH	ARMSTRONG	MEYLER	McCLEAN	Ry. NOBLE	COOK	WILSON	KNOTT 51	DEACON 66	LIDDLE 76	ELLIOTT
EGAN	LIDDLE	LYNCH	REED	KNOTT	McCLEAN	Ry. NOBLE	COOK	WILSON	DEACON 73	ELLIOTT 90	GORRIN	OLIVER
KILGALLON	LIDDLE	LYNCH	KNOTT	MEYLER	McCLEAN	Ry. NOBLE	COOK	KING	REED 57	DEACON 70	MARRS 81	ELLIOTT
EGAN	LIDDLE	LYNCH	REED	ELLIOTT	DEACON	COOK	Ry. NOBLE	WILSON	ARMSTRONG 70	BAGNALL 70	KNOTT 46	MITCHELL
KILGALLON	LIDDLE	MEYLER	GARDNER	VAUGHAN	McCLEAN	COOK	JI	WILSON	RY NOBLE 58	EGAN	LAING	REED
KILGALLON	LIDDLE	MEYLER	GARDNER	VAUGHAN	McCLEAN	COOK	Ry NOBLE	WILSON	LYNCH 60	REED 60	EGAN 78	LAING
LAING	ADAMS	LYNCH	REED	KNOTT	DEACON	COOK	TOUNKARA	KING	ARMSTRONG 79	ELLIOTT 84	LIDDLE	BAGNALL
EGAN	LIDDLE	LYNCH	REED	KNOTT	COOK	TOUNKARA	Ry NOBLE	WILSON	MARRS 70	L. NOBLE 70	DEACON 77	ELLIOTT
LAING	LIDDLE	LYNCH	REED	KNOTT	COOK	CAMPBELL	Ry NOBLE	KING	DEACON 65	WATSON 75	ELLIOTT 75	L. NOBLE
TURNER	LIDDLE	ELMOHAMADY	MEYLER	REED	LYNCH	CAMPBELL	JI	KING	DEACON 68	TOUNKARA 68	WATSON 79	ARMSTRONG
LIDDLE	WATSON	DEACON	REED	ARMSTRONG	ELLIOTT	TOUNKARA	LYNCH	WILSON	MITCHELL 48	LAIDLER 74	OLIVER	GORRIN
WATSON	CALLAGHAN	MITCHELL	GORRIN	ELLIOTT	DEACON	RY NOBLE	TOUNKARA	KING	HONEYMAN 29	OLIVER 70	LAIDLER 90	MANDRON
WATSON	CALLAGHAN	COOK	GORRIN	ARMSTRONG	DEACON	RY. NOBLE	TOUNKARA	KING	ELLIOTT 60	MITCHELL 70	LAIDLER 70	OLIVER
WATSON	CALLAGHAN	MITCHELL	OLIVER	GORRIN	HONEYMAN	DEACON	LAIDLER	KING	LAWSON 58	HOLLAND 77	GIBBONS	MARTIN
WATSON	CALLAGHAN	MITCHELL	OLIVER	GORRIN	HONEYMAN	DEACON	LAIDLER	DIXON	LAWSON 56	GIBBONS 72	THOMAS 72	-
WATSON	CALLAGHAN	GORRIN	OLIVER	HONEYMAN	DEACON	LAIDLER	LAWSON	DIXON	ELLIOTT 61	ARMSTRONG 61	MANDRON 78	MITCHELL
WATSON	CALLAGHAN	HONEYMAN	OLIVER	ARMSTRONG	DEADON	LAWSON	LAIDLER	DIXON	MITCHELL 68	MANDRON 77	GIBBONS	-
WATSON	CALLAGHAN	MITCHELL	GORRIN	ELLIOTT	DEACON	LYNCH	LAIDLER	WILSON	THOMAS 46	OLIVER 63	MANDRON 74	LAWSON

								sub	sub	sub	sub	sub
MARTIN	CALLAGHAN	LAVENDER	BRACE	MITCHELL	LAIDLER	LAWSON	HONEYMAN	MADDISON	MANDRON 22	THOMAS 11	BURN	-
MARTIN	CALLAGHAN	LAVENDER	OLIVER	LANE	LAIDLER	MITCHELL	BRACE	MADDISON	MANDRON 65	HONEYMAN 60	GIBBONS	-
MARTIN	CALLAGHAN	GIBBONS	BRACE	MITCHELL	MANDRON	HONEYMAN	LANE	MADDISON	HOLLAND 75	THOMAS 55	McNAMEE	SMITH
McNAMEE	CALLAGHAN	MARTIN	BRACE	HONEYMAN	LANE	MITCHELL	THOMAS	DIXON	Re. NOBLE 83	HOPE 65	LAVENDER	HOLLAND
GIBBONS	Re. NOBLE	OLIVER	BRACE	HOPE	HONEYMAN	MITCHELL	THOMAS	MADDISON	LANE 60	MARTIN 78	McNAMEE	BURN
McNAMEE	CALLAGHAN	MARTIN	HOPE	LANE	BRACE	MITCHELL	THOMAS	MADDISON	HOLLAND 63	LAIDLER 63	GIBBONS 83	-
McNAMEE	CALLAGHAN	OLIVER	MITCHELL	GORRIN	HONEYMAN	KNOTT	THOMAS	DIXON	BRACE 56	MANDRON 76	GIBBONS 89	HOLLAND
LAVENDER	CALLAGHAN	OLIVER	HOLLAND	BRACE	HONEYMAN	MITCHELL	MANDRON	PICKFORD	LANE 65	THOMAS 85	MARTIN	McNAMEE
LAVENDER	CALLAGHAN	OLIVER	HOLLAND	BRACE	HONEYMAN	MITCHELL	MANDRON	PICKFORD	MARTIN 58	LAIDLER 58	THOMAS 58	BURN
McNAMEE	CALLAGHAN	MARTIN	LANE	GORRIN	HONEYMAN	LAIDLER	MANDRON	DIXON	BRACE 55	THOMAS 60	HOLLAND 88	-
McNAMEE	CALLAGHAN	HOLLAND	MARTIN	GORRIN	MITCHELL	LAIDLER	HONEYMAN	DIXON	CARTWRIGHT 63	OLIVER 69	LANE 81	MANDRON
LAVENDER	Re. NOBLE	MARTIN	LANE	GORRIN	BRACE	LAIDLER	MANDRON	DIXON	MITCHELL 67	HOLLAND 77	McNAMEE	-
McNAMEE	CALLAGHAN	MITCHELL	OLIVER	HONEYMAN	LANE	LAIDLER	MANDRON	MADDISON	CARTWRIGHT 60	THOMAS 74	GIBBONS	MARTIN
BURN	CALLAGHAN	CARTWRIGHT	GORRIN	BRACE	HOLLAND	THOMAS	LAIDLER	MADDISON	SMITH 6	Re. NOBLE 55	MANDRON 75	-
GIBBONS	CALLAGHAN	MITCHELL	MARTIN	BRACE	HONEYMAN	THOMAS	MANDRON	PICKFORD	LAIDLER 60	HOLLAND 70	McNAMEE 75	-
BURN	LANE	MITCHELL	MARTIN	GIBBONS	THOMAS	MANDRON	HOLLAND	MADDISON	CARTWRIGHT 65	HONEYMAN 65	Re. NOBLE 70	-
LAVENDER	CALLAGHAN	HOLLAND	OLIVER	TRIALIST	CARTWRIGHT	MANDRON	THOMAS	MADDISON	GIBBONS 68	MITCHELL 68	LANE 68	-
GIBBONS	CALLAGHAN	CARTWRIGHT	MARTIN	HONEYMAN	HOLLAND	LAIDLER	MANDRON	-	RE NOBLE 26	THOMAS 53	LAWSON 63	-
BURN	Re. NOBLE	MITCHELL	MARTIN	GORRIN	THOMAS	HONEYMAN	LAIDLER	DIXON	LAWSON 57	MANDRON 60	LANE 63	AGNEW
LAVENDER	CALLAGHAN	THOMAS	SMITH	OLIVER	MITCHELL	HONEYMAN	LAIDLER	MADDISON	MARTIN 60	LAWSON 85	McNAMEE	HOLLAND
BURN	Re. NOBLE	MITCHELL	OLIVER	SMITH	HONEYMAN	THOMAS	LAIDLER	MADDISON	HOLLAND 15	MARTIN 65	LAWSON 65	AGNEW
BURN	Re. NOBLE	HOLLAND	MARTIN	AGNEW	LANE	LAWSON	MANDRON	MADDISON	HOPE 60	LAIDLER 67	HONEYMAN 75	GIBBONS
GIBBONS	Re. NOBLE	HOPE	MARTIN	THOMAS	LAIDLER	LAWSON	MANDRON	MADDISON	BRACE 55	HOLLAND 63	AGNEW 70	SMITH
BURN	Re. NOBLE	MITCHELL	OLIVER	AGNEW	HONEYMAN	LAWSON	MANDRON	MADDISON	MARTIN 60	THOMAS 61	LAIDLER 66	HOPE
GIBBONS	Re. NOBLE	HOLLAND	AGNEW	MARTIN	BRACE	MANDRON	THOMAS	MADDISON	MITCHELL 55	LAWSON 55	JOYCE 58	-
BURN	Re. NOBLE	MITCHELL	JOYCE	HOPE	HOLLAND	THOMAS	MANDRON	-	AGNEW 55	LAWSON 75	HONEYMAN 75	BRACE
MARTIN	LANE	HOLLAND	OLIVER	HOPE	THOMAS	AGNEW	LAWSON	-	CALLAGHAN 62	BRACE 62	MANDRON 62	LAIDLER

» KEY ■ = 1st Sub ■ = 2nd Sub ■ = 3rd Sub Matching colours indicate players substituted and the players who replaced them. The number indicates the minute of the substitution.



RETURNING PLAYERS **OFFER A BOOST** DESPITE CUP DEFEAT.

HIBS RESERVES 1 SUNDERLAND RESERVES 0

Wednesday April 25th

The reserves played their ninth in-season friendly of the campaign against Hibs. The match, at the Hibeas training centre, saw the home side win with a goal from former Shamrock Rovers striker Eoin Doyle but Keith Bertschin was pleased with the display with saw triallist Milosh Antic given an opportunity in what was a Behind Closed Doors game: "It was a good game. They played a senior side and while we conceded a poor goal which could have been avoided we played well and it was a good exercise."

SUNDERLAND: Wilson, Marrs, Egan, Watson, Callaghan (Gibbons 70). Mitchell, Gorrin, Elliott, Deacon, Mandron, Antic (Lawson 46).

DERBY COUNTY RESERVES 3 SUNDERLAND RESERVES 2

**Wednesday April 18th
Pride Park
Central League Cup
Semi-Final**

Craig Lynch played his first game since being injured against Liverpool on Valentine's Day and Craig Gordon returned in goal for Keith Bertschin's side. The Scotland international had conceded just one goal in his three previous reserve team appearances.

Defending cup holders Sunderland took the lead just before the half hour,



Adam Mitchell scoring for the second time in his last three starts, as he applied a close range finish to Jordan Laidler's low cross.

Laidler went close to doubling the lead, as did Roarie Deacon who headed against the bar but the Rams raided successfully seven minutes into the second half to equalise through 16-year-old England youth cap Kwame Thomas who headed home a James Bailey corner.

A double strike in the 70th and 73rd minutes put Derby 3-1 up through

Will Hughes and Chris Jones who converted a cross from Spurs' loanee Tom Carroll. Sunderland responded by introducing in-form French Academy striker Mikael Mandron who promptly scored his first goal at this level to make it 3-2. Sunderland though could not produce the equaliser leaving Derby to progress into the final where they will play Manchester City who beat Stoke City 4-1 in the other semi-final.

SUNDERLAND: Gordon, Marrs, Bagnall, Watson, Callaghan (Oliver

63), Mitchell, Gorrin (Mandron 74), Elliott, Deacon, Lynch (Thomas 46) Laidler. **Unused:** Wilson, Lawson.

RARE CUP DEFEAT

Defeat at Pride Park was just Sunderland's second defeat in the Central League Cup in the four years the Lads have entered the competition. Winners in 2008-09 when Wednesday's conquerors Derby were beaten in the final at Pride Park, Sunderland missed out in 2009-10 on goal difference to Scunthorpe having lost 4-3 at home to Hartlepool who stunned the Lads by racing into a 4-0 first-half lead. Last season Sunderland regained the trophy although the final against Walsall was carried over to the start of this season before this week's elimination at the semi final stage.

Since entering the Central League Cup four years ago the reserves have won 15, drew two and lost two of the 19 games played. The 20th fixture was given as a walkover to Sunderland in 2008-09 when Newcastle withdrew without fulfilling the fixture.

DATE SWITCH

The reserves one remaining league fixture of the season has seen the date move from May 1st to Friday May 4th. The game away to Manchester United will still take place at Altrincham FC with a kick-off time of 7.00pm.

GED McNAMEE

ACADEMY



BACK TO BACK WINS FOR UNDER-18S.

SUNDERLAND 4 WOLVERHAMPTON WANDERERS 1

Saturday 21st April

Not a good weekend for Wolves, who were of course relegated from the Barclays Premier League and also saw their Under-18s suffer a heavy loss on the road as Sunderland made it two home wins in a row; the visitors from Group C's good form in the main this season counting for nothing as they were swept aside in the second-half having gone in at half-time all square.

Other than Ross Holland's early chance the opening stages were slow, but Sunderland took the lead after half an hour when Nathan Thomas volleyed Carl Lawson's cross into the net only to be pegged back when Jake Kempton headed in shortly before the break.

Things were again slow in the early stages of the second-half but after Conor Oliver headed home Glen Lane's centre, Sunderland stepped through the gears impressively and pulled away through Mikael Mandron's precise finish and Anthony Callaghan's deflected cross shot off Dominic Iorfa.

SUNDERLAND: Dixon, Cartwright, Gibbons, Martin, Lane (Callaghan 62), Holland, Oliver, Hope, Thomas, Agnew (Brace 62), Lawson (Mandron 62). **Unused:** Laidler.



SUNDERLAND Under-18s 2 MIDDLESBROUGH Under-18S 0

Saturday 14th April

Sunderland completed the double over 'Boro in a game where the football on display made light of the wet and windy conditions. Sunderland took a 17th minute lead with a well executed shot from Nathan Thomas who was found with a terrific diagonal ball from Wade Joyce, the creator making his first start after debuting as a sub in the previous game at Manchester City.

Callum Hope went close to doubling the lead with a 25-yard drive before a slide rule ball from Ross Holland released Mikael Mandron who finished well, going across the 'keeper. Holland kept 'Boro 'keeper Shane Bland busy with a shot from the edge of the box before Mandron, fed by Joyce, was unlucky to see an exquisitely struck shot hit the post.

Little had been seen of 'Boro as an attacking force until Adam Garrity forced a terrific save on the stroke of half-time. With the wind behind them after the break though

'Boro brought the best out of Sunderland 'keeper Joel Dixon - watched by the visiting Mart Poom. Dixon was equal to everything, Dylan McLade and former Monkwearmouth pupil Jake Fowler in particular being thwarted.

Sunderland continued to threaten, Holland having a 'goal' ruled out for offside, sub Carl Lawson testing Bland and fellow sub Liam Agnew threading a clever ball which produced a shot on target from Thomas.

SUNDERLAND: Dixon, Cartwright (Agnew 55), Gibbons, Burn, Re Noble, Mitchell (Lawson 75), Joyce, Hope, Holland, Thomas, Mandron (Honeyman 75). **Unused:** Brace.



POOMINATOR BRINGS TRIALLISTS

ROB MASON FINDS FORMER 'KEEPER BUILDING LINKS.

» AN INTERESTED SPECTATOR AT THE RECENT UNDER-18s WIN OVER MIDLESBROUGH WAS

FORMER GOALKEEPER **MART POOM**, OVER FROM ESTONIA WITH A GROUP OF YOUNG PLAYERS HE HAD

BROUGHT FOR A FEW DAYS TRIAL.

"I set up a summer camp in Tallin that the SAFC Foundation

came over to and I'm hoping to keep that connection going. It was a great success and I'd like it to continue," 'The Poominator' explained.

Clearly delighted to be back and ever the enthusiast Mart notes: "Martin O'Neill has done a great job already at Sunderland and things are looking bright for the club which has changed a lot since I was here. It is bigger now and more internationally known. I know Nicklas Bendtner and Seb Larsson from my time at Arsenal and then there are still people around that I know such as Bill Wilson the masseur, Ged McNamee, Elliott Dickman and Wayne Walls from the academy and academy goalkeeping coach Mark Prudhoe as well. It is great to be back. I've not been back to a game at Sunderland since the last time I was here on the bench for Arsenal and it is nice to see so many old faces and say hello."



MART POOM AND THE ESTONIAN TRIALLISTS

» LOAN WATCH

DOMINIC GOLD MONITORS THE SAFC PLAYERS OUT ON LOAN

» IN LEAGUE 1, **JORDAN COOK** APPEARED IN ALL THREE OF CARLISLE'S RECENT LOSSES, INCLUDING TIGHT DEFEATS AT CHARLTON ATHLETIC AND SHEFFIELD WEDNESDAY.

At Hartlepool United, **Ryan Noble** is currently enjoying an extended run in the first-team. The youngster clocked up another two full games but would have been disappointed not to have scored.

Oumare Tounkara has failed to score since returning to Boundary

Park in March. The striker started in draws at Wycombe and at home to Preston which look to have cemented the Latics place in League 1. Still battling against relegation, however, are **Adam Reed** at Leyton Orient and **Louis Laing** at Wycombe. Reed appeared from the bench in a 3-1 loss at Sheffield United but returned to the starting line up as the O's claimed a vital 2-2 draw with Yeovil. Laing hasn't featured recently other than being an used sub away to Charlton last weekend.

In League 2, **Billy Knott** returned from injury to help his AFC Wimbledon side to a 2-0 victory over high-flying Torquay United, whilst **Blair Adams** clocked up another three appearances for

Northampton, who are now safe from the drop after a goalless draw at Hereford United.

Further up League 2 in mid-table, **Michael Liddle** was involved twice for Accrington Stanley who lost to Cheltenham before earning a point at home to Shrewsbury. Liddle has been a regular at the Crown Ground since joining in February, clocking up ten appearances.

In the Blue Square Premier, it was disappointment for **Jordan Pickford**, as his Darlington side were finally relegated after a season of struggle. Demotion came in the form of a 2-2 draw with Bath City, although Pickford would have been happy to keep a clean sheet three days later in a 0-0 draw at Newport

County. At Stockport County, **Lewis King** made his fifth appearance of the season in a 1-1 draw with Braintree at Edgeley Park.

In the Championship, the battle for promotion will go down to the last day, as **George McCartney's** West Ham battle against Southampton for the prize of Barclays Premier League football, although McCartney hasn't appeared since April 9th due to injury.

Over in the UAE, Al-Ain remain clear at the top of the league, securing a point last time out with a 2-2 draw at Wasl Dubai, **Asamoah Gyan** notching twice. Meanwhile, in Turkey, **Cristian Riveros** was also on the score sheet, as his Kayserispor side earned a 2-1 victory over Gaziantepspor to remain in mid-table. ①

ACADEMY PROFILE

ANDREW SMITHSON
PROFILES THE YOUNG
HOPEFULS.

MIKAEL MANDRON

Date of birth: 11 October
1994

Birthplace: Fontenay
aux Roses, France

Height: 91 cm

Weight: 82 kg

Position: Forward

Last school attended:

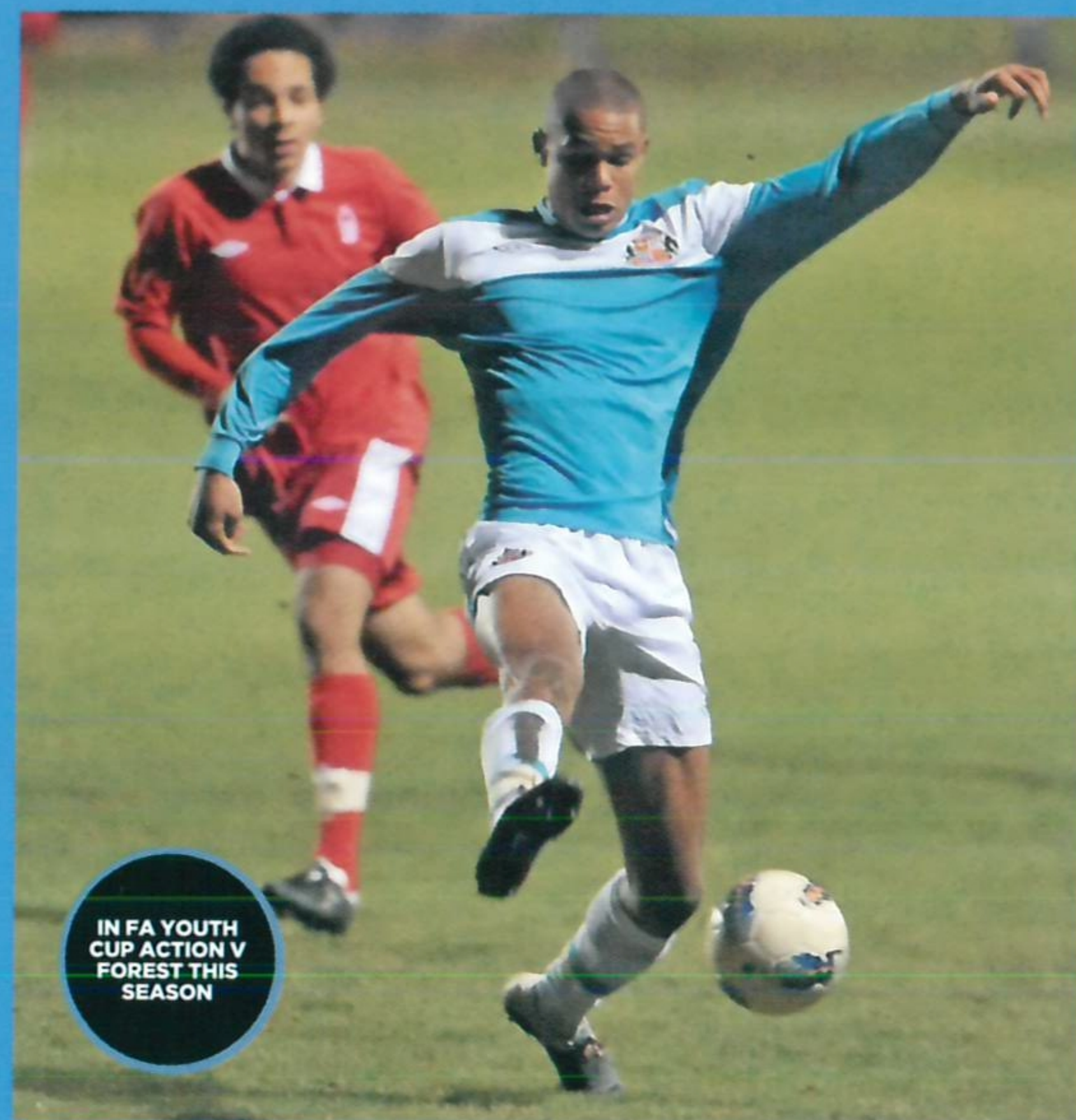
Lycee Jean Pierre
Vernant (Lycee is the
French equivalent to
college/6th form)

**Which other clubs were
interested in signing
you?** Bordeaux, Sochaux
and Newcastle

As if leaving school and becoming a full-time footballer wasn't difficult enough, French forward Mikael Mandron took on the extra challenge of crossing the Channel to do it in a different country; "Coming to Sunderland is an unbelievable experience and I thought it was a good opportunity. I know that English clubs have good facilities and it was a great chance for me," he explains.

Mika did at least have the advantage of already knowing a bit of English before his arrival. "Dad is half-Scottish so spoke to me in English since I was born, but I wasn't fluent. He was born in France but his mum was Scottish and he went to school in England and then America. My Mum is from a French island in the Caribbean called Martinique. She came over when she was six.

"I have an older brother called Axel and I am really close with him, he really pushed me and believed in me. When I was younger he used to play for Boulogne and would try to train me. I would like to thank him for that. Mum and Dad, all of my family; they all believed in me and pushed me. I



IN FA YOUTH
CUP ACTION V
FOREST THIS
SEASON

have quite a big family because my Mum has a lot of brothers and sisters and I would also like to mention my Uncle Laurent, and my Godfather too; he works for L'Equipe and gives me advice all the time.

"I was born in Fontenay but I grew up in a city called Boulogne-Billancourt, near Paris. I really love my city. I went to school there and then went to Lycee in Sevres for two years. It was not far to travel, 15 minutes on the bus. Demba Ba is from Sevres."

So, having left Boulogne, where Renault is based, how has he found Sunderland, and how did Sunderland find

him? "I was playing in France and a scout came to watch me in training and then in a game. He got in contact with Mum and I came over on trial for a week, then another week, and that was it; I was offered a deal. Some scouts come over to France but this one is from France and works for Sunderland.

"I came in July at the beginning of the season and everybody has really helped me and welcomed me. From the very first day I felt I was part of the team and would like to thank all of the staff for that. When I came here I got a laptop so I could get in touch with my family with Skype, and it is really

easy to phone them. I would like to thank my host family, they do a really good job."

Now into the swing of things, he is progressing on the field too - has scored in each of his last three competitive games - and is again setting further challenges. "I play high up the pitch and try to get the ball to my team-mates, a link player. I am quite tall and I have just got in the reserves, it is a higher level but I did score at Derby last week. The players are stronger, quicker, and it is hard stepping up but I am doing alright.

"The match against Crewe was my best for the Under-18s, it was a really good game and we played well with the ball. We scored five goals and I was glad to get a hat-trick. I scored again for the Under-18s last Saturday and next season I have the ambition to win the league because I think we are able to do that. I would love to win the FA Youth Cup as well because we didn't do very well this season and would like to go as far as we can." ❶



MANDRON
CURLS A SHOT
AGAINST THE
POST AGAINST
BORO

SAPPHIRE ENGINEERING (NE) LTD

We know the score

**Mechanical & Electrical Engineers
Consulting Engineers
Multi Skilled Technicians
Contract Servicing & Development
Support & Maintenance Cover
Precision Machining & Fabrication**

Sapphire Engineering NE Ltd
Unit 3 Bensham Street, Boldon Colliery
South Tyneside, Ne35 9LN

Tel 0191 537 4394

Fax 0191 537 4452 Mobile 07734 946 154

BOLTON



» **AS FABRICE MUAMBA CONTINUES HIS JOURNEY TOWARDS FULL HEALTH, THE PRESENT THAT BOLTON WANDERERS' PLAYERS WOULD MOST LIKE TO GIVE THEIR TEAM-MATE IS A BARCLAYS PREMIER LEAGUE FIXTURE LIST FOR A NEW SEASON AT THE REEBOK.**

Football may not have mattered in the hours and days when a colleague fought for his life, but as the reports from the London Chest Hospital became more encouraging, it was time to return to the collective mission that Fabrice himself was so committed to.

In his last appearance in the Barclays Premier League, albeit a fleeting one as substitute on the second Saturday in March, he celebrated when a first win since January lifted his side out of the bottom three.

No one would have known then, or in that chilling moment a week later when he collapsed in an FA Cup-tie at White Hart Lane, that the club's fortunes would improve as quickly as they did.

A picture of Fabrice, sitting up in his hospital bed and smiling for the camera, could not have been better timed, appearing on the morning when Bolton were in Wolverhampton for one of the many "make or break" fixtures dotted around the calendar last month.

Bolton did all that could have been asked of them with wins against QPR, Blackburn and Wolves but



after breaking out of the relegation places, with the bonus of a Manager of the Month award, they were back in there as Wigan and QPR picked up points.

For Owen Coyle, having been the public face of Bolton Wanderers during such an emotional period, there was a balance to be found between the welfare of one of his players and the needs of the football club.

As he said at Molineux: "The news about Fabrice is he's getting much better by the day... he's a big part of our club and there's no getting away from the fact it would've been difficult for us to play games if he wasn't improving."

» FORM LINES

History will say that a special occasion for Bolton Wanderers turned out to be the starting point for one of the worst runs in their history.

When Owen Coyle's team walked out at Wembley last April, they were eighth in the Barclays Premier League, only a handful of points behind Liverpool in sixth.

A couple hours later they were digesting the shock of the biggest FA Cup semi-final defeat by any club since 1939.

Although the response to losing 5-0 to Stoke was to stay eighth in the League by beating Arsenal on the following weekend, they ended the campaign with five straight defeats and, for all their efforts, the bad run followed them into a new season.

Up to Christmas their results were all or nothing: 14 goals in four wins; 39 conceded in 14 defeats. For four months they stayed in the bottom three until landing a memorable double over the Merseyside clubs in January.

» FAREWELL

Ali Al-Habsi (Wigan Athletic), Gary Cahill (Chelsea), Tamir Cohen (Maccabi Haifa), Johan Elmander (Galatasaray), Joey O'Brien and Matthew Taylor (both West Ham United)

There were factors that would have tested any club, not least the injuries keeping Stuart Holden, Lee Chung-Yong and Tyrone Mears out of the side for most of the season.

But this week's crucial win at Aston Villa - the sixth of the season away from the Reebok - has greatly improved their chances of extending a sequence of 11 consecutive years in the Barclays Premier League. **1**

»MANAGER - OWEN COYLE

Born: Paisley, 14 July 1966

LEAGUE PLAYING CAREER

		Games	Goals
1985-88	Dumbarton	103	36
1988-90	Clydebank	63	33
1990-93	Airdrieonians	123	50
1993-95	Bolton Wanderers	54	12
1995-96	Dundee United	38	5
1997-99	Motherwell	77	24
1999-01	Dunfermline	47	10
2000-01	Ross County (L)	5	2
2001-02	Airdrieonians	45	29
2002-03	Falkirk	36	20
2003	Dundee United	3	-
2003-04	Airdrie United (L)	23	12
2004-05	Airdrie United	33	14
2005-06	St Johnstone	16	-
TOTAL		666	247

INTERNATIONAL CAPS: Republic of Ireland, Full (1), B, U-21 (2)

HONOURS

With Airdrieonians: Promotion from Scottish Division One, 1990-91
With Bolton: Promotion from Division One, 1994-95
With Dundee United: Promotion from Scottish Division One, 1995-96
With Dunfermline: Promotion from Scottish Division One, 1999-00
With Falkirk: Scottish Division One, 2002-03
With Airdrie United: Scottish Division Two, 2003-04

MANAGEMENT

2003 Falkirk (co-player/manager)
 2005-07 St Johnstone
 2007-10 Burnley
 2010- Bolton Wanderers (from Jan. 2010)

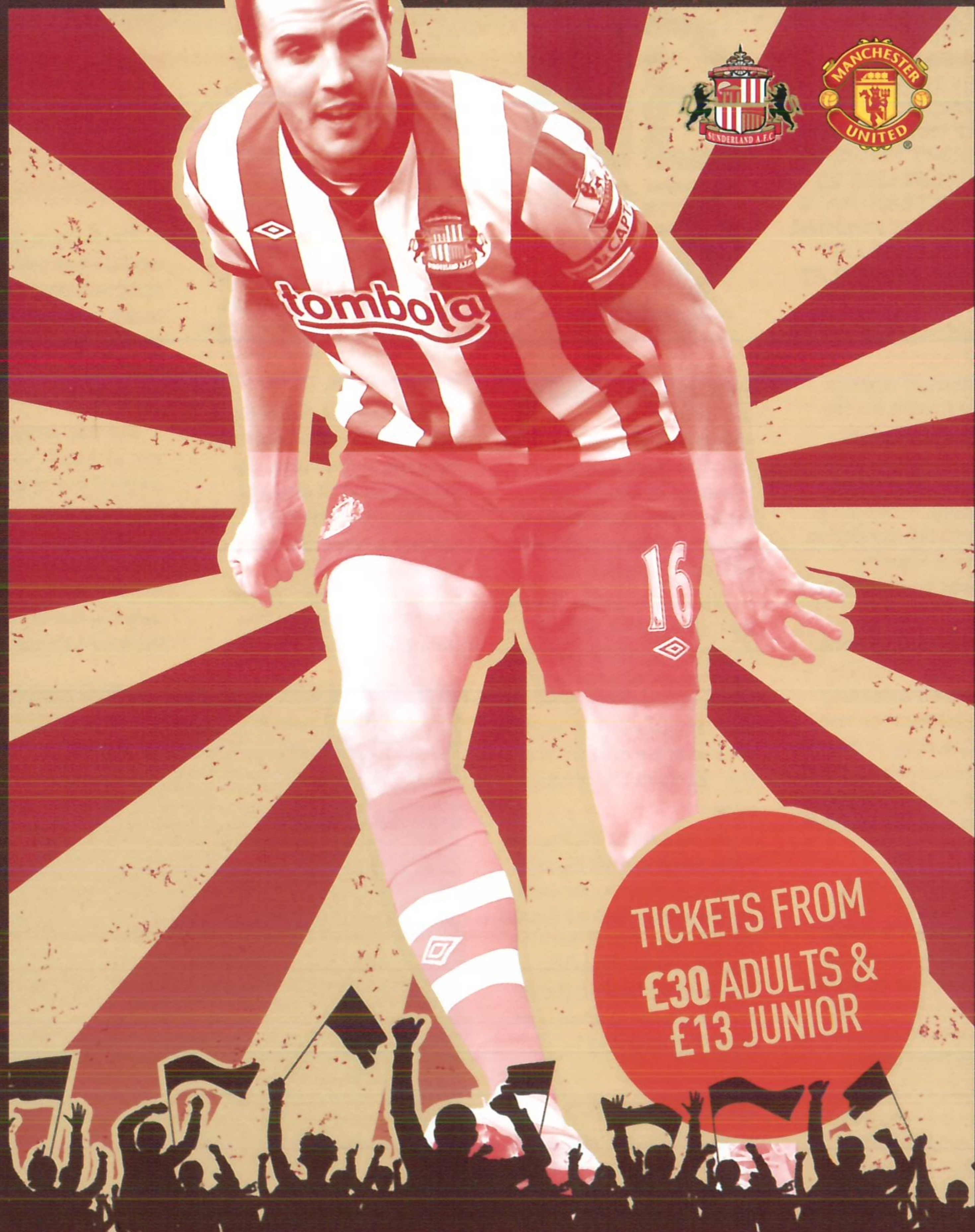
HONOURS

With Burnley: Promotion from Championship, 2008-09



RED ALERT!

SUNDAY 13 MAY, 3PM



TICKETS FROM
£30 ADULTS &
£13 JUNIOR

SUNDERLAND AFC v MANCHESTER UNITED

SAFC.COM | 0871 911 1973 | SOL TICKET OFFICE

SCOUTING REPORT



BOLTON HAVE MORE AWAY WINS THAN ANY SIDE IN THE BOTTOM HALF.

» **WITH MORE AWAY WINS THAN ANY OTHER SIDE IN THE BOTTOM HALF, BOLTON'S LOWLY BARCLAYS PREMIER LEAGUE PLACING COULD DISGUISE THE THREAT THEY POSE HERE THIS AFTERNOON.**

Owen Coyle's side's struggles are based on 10 home defeats while away from home they have won as many games as Chelsea or Spurs. Tuesday's win at Villa was their sixth of the season, completing a very useful set of having won away to all the other five teams currently joining them in the bottom six. Add an impressive victory away to Sunderland's bogey side Everton and you can see that on their wanders Bolton will be no pushover.

Key to Bolton's set up at the moment is the protection Nigel Reo-Coker offers to his back-four. Shielding the defence, the one time Wimbledon protégé of current SAFC Academy coach Carlton Fairweather, is a strong and experienced player whose influence in last Saturday's

home draw with Swansea and victory at his old club Villa in midweek was colossal.

Alongside Reo-Coker former Wolves man Mark Davies continues to impress with his box to box running while just ahead of him 33-year-old former Bulgaria international Martin Petrov uses his vision and range of passing to direct operations in similar fashion to how Ryan Giggs has developed his game.

Arsenal loanee Ryo Miyaichi and former Manchester United youngster Chris Eagles offer pace and creativity, ex-Burnley man Eagles being second top scorer with half a dozen goals to his name in all competitions and operating most centrally of the advanced midfield three is the man most pushing on in support of the main striker. Incidentally Bolton's midfield shape was as described here and not as listed on the back cover.

Former Liverpool man - and rumoured Sunderland target - David Ngog led the

BOLTON IN MIDWEEK ASTON VILLA 1-2 BOLTON



» SET PIECES

Bolton possess some serious threats at set-pieces. Chris Eagles is capable of picking his spot and was unlucky not to score with a free-kick at Villa Park on Tuesday with an effort that brought a great save out of Shay Given as his skidding effort bounced just in front of the 'keeper.

Martin Petrov is also a threat with his ability to shoot with accuracy and venom. On loan Arsenal man Ryo Miyaichi, Eagles and Petrov are all deliverers of corner kicks with Bolton's threat highlighted by David Wheater's recent two goals from flag kicks that brought the recent win over Blackburn.

line at Villa having come off the bench last Saturday. Mobile and elusive, Ngog came more and more into the game on Tuesday as supply lines to him improved when he capped his performance with a well taken fourth goal of the season.

The player most like Sunderland's 1973 FA Cup winning centre forward Vic Halom - Kevin Davies - played up front last weekend and made an impact when introduced at half-time at Villa where he played on the right. Adept at holding the ball up and a player who never fails to give 100 per cent Davies is what many old stagers consider a 'proper' centre forward.

Top scorer Ivan Klasnic has been used as a sub recently coming on after 70 odd minutes in the last two games as he looks for the goal that will take him into double figures for the season.

At the back, Hungarian goalkeeper Adam Bogdan continues to do so well the experienced Jussi Jaaskelainen is having to be content with a place on the bench. In front of Bogdan a currently settled back-four features former Boro man David Wheater alongside newcomer, USA cap Tim Ream with Greta Steinsson and Sam Ricketts operating at full-back. 1



RYO MIYAICHI IN ACTION AT ASTON VILLA ON TUESDAY

THE A-Z OF THE CURRENT **BOLTON** SQUAD.

MARCOS ALONSO

Born: Madrid 28.12.90
Clubs: Castilla (2008-10), Real Madrid (2010), Bolton Wanderers (2010)
2011-12 League: 4(1) apps, 1 goal; **Cups:** 2 apps

Grandson of five-time European Cup winner Marquitos, now recovered from a broken foot - scoring his first Barclays Premier League goal in last month's win at Wolves.

ROBBIE BLAKE

Born: Middlesbrough 4.3.76
Clubs: Darlington (1994-97), Bradford City (1997-02), Nottingham Forest (loan, 2000), Burnley (2002-05), Birmingham City (2005), Leeds United (2005-07), Burnley (2007-10)
2011-12 League: 1 sub;
Cups: 1(1) apps

A regular in Owen Coyle's promoted side at Burnley, followed the manager to The Reebok last season and at 36 mostly a fringe player.



ADAM BOGDAN

Born: Budapest 27.9.87
 International: Hungary
Clubs: Vasas (2005-07), Vecsesi loan, 2006), Bolton Wanderers (2007)
2011-12 League: 16 apps; **Cups:** 8 apps

Called up in January because of an injury to Jussi Jaaskelainen and kept his place while winning another cap for Hungary in the February friendly against Bulgaria.

DEDRYCK BOYATA

Born: Brussels 8.9.90
 International: Belgium
Clubs: Manchester City (2008-), Bolton Wanderers (loan, 2011-12)
2011-12 League: 9(1) apps, 1 goal; **Cups:** 3 apps

Pitched into a Manchester derby in a cup a semi-final at 19, the on-loan City defender won his first full cap in Belgium's Euro 2012 fixture with Austria last season.

KEVIN DAVIES

Born: Sheffield 26.3.77
 International: England
Clubs: Chesterfield (1993-97), Southampton (1997-98), Blackburn Rovers (1998-99), Southampton (1999-03), Millwall (loan, 2002), Bolton Wanderers (2003-)
2011-12 League: 17(10) apps, 3 goals; **Cups:** 2(4) apps, 2 goals

Nine years a Bolton player, capped once by England, now 35, out of the starting team after Christmas but handy last month with goals from the bench.

MARK DAVIES

Born: Wolverhampton 18.2.88
Clubs: Wolves (2005-09), Leicester City (loan, 2008), Bolton Wanderers (2009-)
2011-12 League: 25(6) apps, 3 goals; **Cups:** 6(2) apps

A couple of injuries holding up his bid for a regular spot at The Reebok, the midfielder made his breakthrough this season after recuperating from surgery during the summer.

CHRIS EAGLES

Born: Hemel Hempstead 19.11.85
Clubs: Manchester United (2003-08), Watford (loan, 2005), Sheffield Wednesday (loan, 2005), Watford (loan, 2006), Burnley (2008-11), Bolton Wanderers (2011-)
2011-12 League: 22(8) apps, 4 goals; **Cups:** 5(2) apps, 2 goals

The former Old Trafford starlet has played much of his senior football for Owen Coyle, going into the Barclays Premier League with him at Burnley and now in his first season at Bolton.

RICARDO GARDNER

International: Jamaica
Clubs: Harbour View (1997-98), Bolton Wanderers (1998-)
2011-12 League: 2(2) apps; **Cups:** 2 apps

A World Cup player when signing for Wanderers 14 years ago, capped more than 100 times, promoted in his third season and voted Player of the Year in 2007.

STUART HOLDEN

Born: Aberdeen 1.8.85
 International: USA
Clubs: Sunderland (2005), Houston Dynamo (2006-10), Bolton Wanderers (2010-)
 2011-12 **Cups:** 1 app

Although quickly returning from a broken leg to go to the 2010 World Cup, the midfielder met with setbacks in the last year as a knee injury required two operations.

JUSSI JAASKELAINEN

Born: Vaasa 19.4.75
 International: Finland
Clubs: MP (1992-95), VPS (1996-97), Bolton Wanderers (1997-)
2011-12 League: 18 apps

The longest-serving player was undisputed No.1 'keeper through more than 500 games until losing his place through an injury against Wolves on New Year's Eve.

IVAN KLASNIC

Born: Hamburg 29.1.80
 International: Croatia
Clubs: St Pauli (1997-01), Werder Bremen (2001-08), Nantes (2008-10), Bolton Wanderers (loan, 2009; signed: 2010-)
2011-12 League: 15(10) apps, 8 goals; **Cups:** 4 apps, 1 goal

A Bundesliga title winner during a decade in German football, the 32-year-old Croatian went past 40 caps when making two appearances in qualification for Euro 2012.



ZAT KNIGHT

Born: Solihull 2.5.80
 International: England
Clubs: Rushall Olympic, Fulham (1999-07), Peterborough United (loan, 2000), Aston Villa (2007-09), Bolton Wanderers (2009-)
2011-12 League: 20(3) apps; **Cups:** 4 apps

After two years with Martin O'Neill at Villa Park, the 6ft 6in defender signed for Gary Megson and when Owen Coyle took over, he played in every Barclays Premier League match for 13 months.

LEE CHUNG-YONG

Born: Seoul 2.7.88
 International: South Korea
Clubs: FC Seoul (2006-09), Bolton Wanderers (2009-)

Player of the Year before going to the World Cup in 2010, the winger has been much missed this season after breaking a leg in a friendly at Newport County in July.

TYRONE MEARS

Born: Stockport 18.2.83
 International: Jamaica
Clubs: Manchester City (2000-02), Preston NE (2002-06), West Ham United (2006-07), Derby County (2007-09), Burnley (2009-11), Bolton Wanderers (2011-)
2011-12 League: 1 app

Bought from Owen Coyle's former club in a double deal with Eagles, the full-back became the second player to break leg in pre-season - after only a week with the club.

RYO MIYAICHI

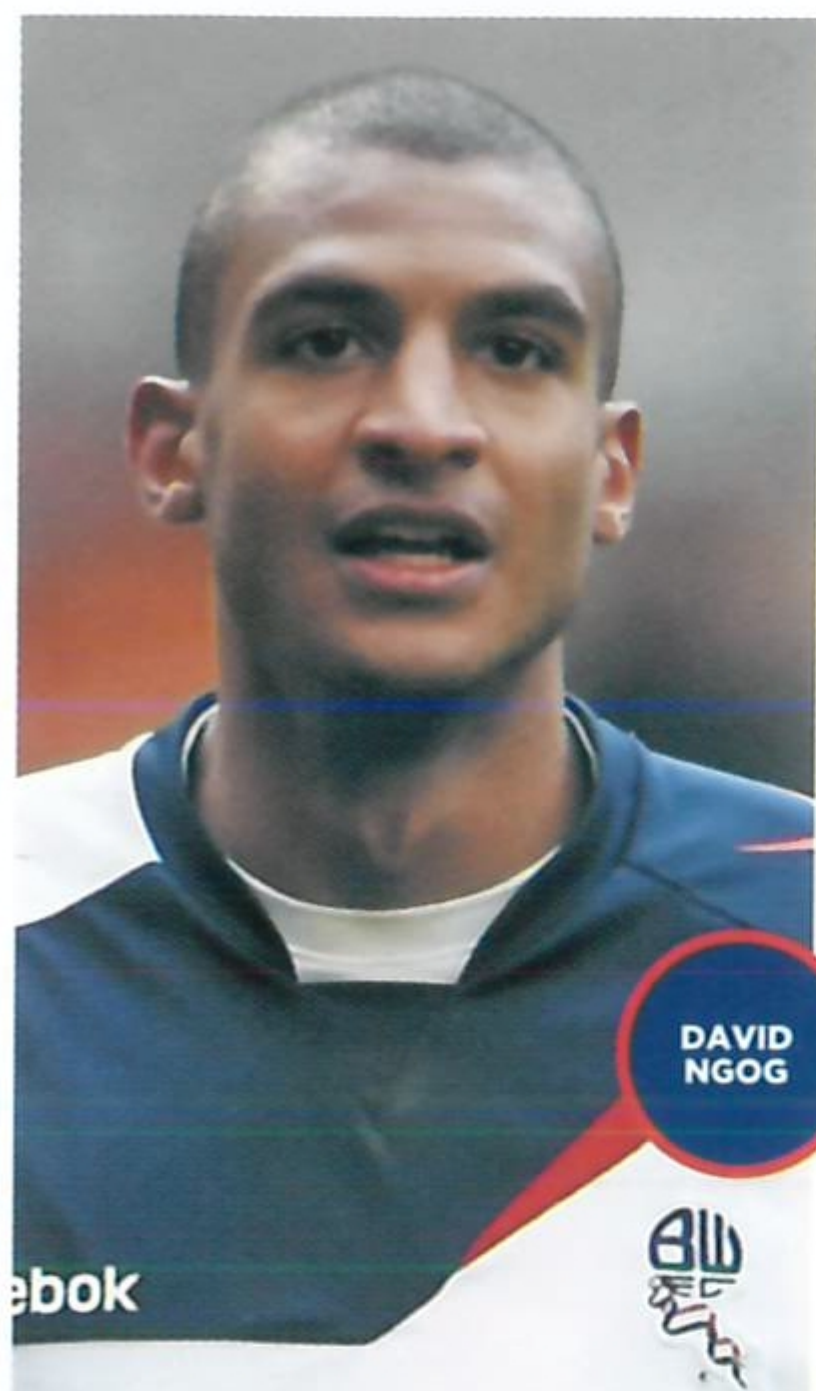
Born: Aichi 14.12.92
Clubs: Arsenal (2011-), Feyenoord (loan, 2011), Bolton Wanderers (loan, 2012)
2011-12 League: 8(2) apps; **Cups:** 2 apps, 1 goal

Impressive as soon as he moved north in January, the Arsenal teenager was kept waiting for a first cap for Japan - spending 90 minutes on the bench during a 22,000-mile round trip in February.

FABRICE MUAMBA

Born: Kinshasa 6.4.88
 International: England U21
Clubs: Arsenal (2006-07), Birmingham City (loan, 2006; signed, 2007), Bolton Wanderers (2008-)
2011-12 League: 18(2) apps, 1 goal; **Cups:** 3(1) apps, 1 goal

His career on hold following his cardiac arrest last month, the 24-year-old is one of England's most-capped Under-21 players, having made his 33rd appearance at last summer's European Championship.



DAVID NGOG

Born: Paris 1.4.89
International: France U21
Clubs: Paris Saint-Germain (2006-08), Liverpool (2008-11), Bolton Wanderers (2011-)
2011-12 League: 21(8) apps, 3 goals; **Cups:** 3(3) apps, 1 goal

After three years at Anfield, perhaps it was a flashback to Merseyside rivalry when he scored his second goal for Bolton against Everton at Goodison Park. Netted at Villa on Tuesday.

MARTIN PETROV

Born: Vratza 15.1.79
International: Bulgaria
Clubs: CSKA Sofia (1996-98), Servette (1998-00), Wolfsburg (2000-05), Atletico Madrid (2005-07), Manchester City (2007-10), Bolton Wanderers (2010-)
2011-12 League: 26(1) apps, 3 goals; **Cups:** 4 apps, 2 goals

One of Bulgaria's most talented players and a respected international traveller, the 33-year-old midfielder has divided up more than 350 League appearances between clubs in four countries.

DARREN PRATLEY

Born: Barking 22.4.85
Clubs: Fulham (2002-06), Brentford (loan, 2005), Swansea City (2006-11), Bolton Wanderers (2011-)
2011-12 League: 14(11) apps, 1 goal; **Cups:** 6(1) apps, 1 goal

Promoted last May on a memorable day with Swansea at Wembley, the midfielder chose to make his Barclays Premier League base at Bolton after completing his contract in south Wales.

TIM REAM

Born: St Louis 5.10.87
International: USA
Clubs: Chicago Fire Premier

(2008-09), New York Red Bulls I (2010-11), Bolton Wanderers (2012-)
2011-12 League: 9 apps; **Cups:** 1(1) app

Signed as a replacement for England's Gary Cahill, the American defender arrived in January after MLS experience alongside Thierry Henry.

NIGEL REO-COKER

Born: Thornton Heath 14.5.84
International: England U21
Clubs: Wimbledon (2002-04), West Ham United (2004-07), Aston Villa (2007-11), Bolton Wanderers (2011-)
2011-12 League: 33 apps, 2 goals; **Cups:** 5 apps

Another Martin O'Neill signing for Aston Villa, the former England Under-21 captain spent four seasons in the Midlands before continuing northwards with a two-year deal at Bolton.



SAM RICKETTS

Born: Aylesbury 11.10.81
International: Wales
Clubs: Oxford United (2000-03), Telford United (2003-04), Swansea City (2004-06), Hull City (2006-09), Bolton Wanderers (2009-)
2011-12 League: 16 apps, 1 goal; **Cups:** 4 apps

Robbed of a semi-final appearance at Wembley after rupturing an Achilles tendon, the full-back was out for close to 11 months until re-appearing on New Year's Eve.

JOE RILEY

Born: Salford 13.10.91
Club: Bolton Wanderers (2009-)
2011-12 League: 2(1) apps; **Cups:** 4 apps

Attached to Wanderers from the age of seven, the 20-year-old full-back has appeared at Old Trafford and in both cup

competitions in his first season with the senior side.

MARVIN SORDELL

Born: Pinner 17.2.91
International: England U21
Clubs: Watford (2009-12), Tranmere Rovers (loan, 2010), Bolton Wanderers (2012-)
2011-12 League: Watford, 25(1) apps, 8 goals, Bolton, 2 subs; **Cups:** Watford 3 apps, 2 goals

Watford's top scorer when he followed Danny Graham (Swansea City) in leaving Vicarage Road for a Barclays Premier League club this season.

GRETA RAFN STEINSSON

Born: Siglufjörður 9.1.82
International: Iceland
Clubs: IA Akranes (1999-04), Young Boys (2004-06), AZ Alkmaar (2006-08), Bolton Wanderers (2008-)
2011-12 League: 20(3) apps, 1 goal; **Cups:** 3 apps

A £3.5million deal four years ago made the full-back a popular successor to Edin Džeko and Gudni Bergsson in the line of Icelandic signings at The Reebok.

TUNCAY SANLI

Born: Sakarya 16.2.82
International: Turkey
Clubs: Sakaryaspor (2000-02), Fenerbahçe (2002-07), Middlesbrough (2007-09), Stoke City (2009-11), Wolfsburg (2011), Bolton Wanderers (loan, 2011-12)
2011-12 League: 3(13) apps; **Cups:** 4(2) apps, 1 goal

The first Turkish player to score a Champions League hat-trick - against Manchester United - and the national team's vice-captain.

JOSH VELA

Born: Salford 14.12.93
Club: Bolton Wanderers (2011-)
2011-12 League: 1 sub

Signing a new three-and-a-half-year contract in February, the teenage midfielder was promoted to the first-team bench soon after recovering from a broken foot.

DAVID WHEATER

Born: Redcar 14.2.87
International: England U21
Clubs: Middlesbrough (2005-11), Doncaster Rovers (loan, 2006), Wolves (loan, 2006), Darlington (loan, 2007), Bolton Wanderers (2011-)
2011-12 League: 21 apps, 2 goals; **Cups:** 6 apps, 1 goal



A high-profile recruit in the January window last year, the former Boro captain scored his first Barclays Premier League goals for the club in March - a double in the vital win against Blackburn.

GREGG WYLDE

Born: Kirkintilloch 23.3.91
International: Scotland U21
Clubs: Rangers (2009-12), Bolton Wanderers (2012-)
League Career: 38 apps, 2 goals
2011-12 League: Rangers, 13(8) apps, 2 goals; **Cups:** Rangers, 2(2) apps

Having won his first SPL medal last season, the Scot signed on a three-year with Bolton shortly before his 21st birthday but his debut for a new club was held up by FIFA.

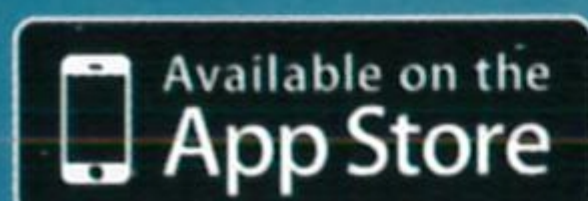
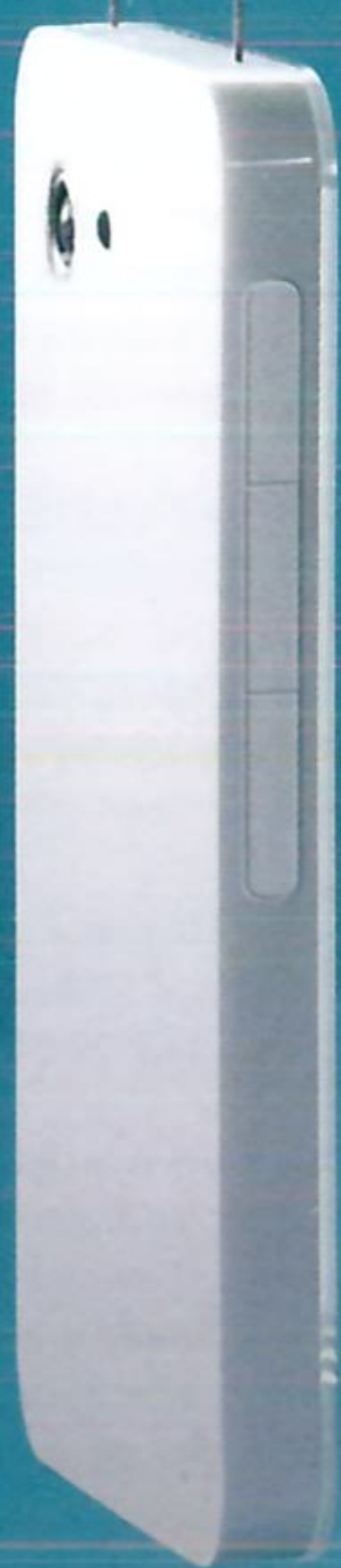
ALSO PLAYED 2011-12

Adam Blakeman (b Widnes 3.12.91) 1 sub Cup
Gary Cahill (to Chelsea) 19 apps, 2 goals
League, 2 apps Cup
Gael Kakuta (on loan from Chelsea) 4 subs League, 2 apps, 1 goal Cup
Michael O'Halloran (on loan to Sheffield United) 2 subs Cup
Paul Robinson (on loan to Leeds United) 15(2) apps
League, 1(2) apps Cup

International recognition listed from U-21 level upwards. Appearance details up to Friday 27th April.

Barclays Pingit. The easy way to send money using just a mobile number.

To find out more visit barclays.co.uk/pingit or download the Barclays Pingit app.



Terms and conditions apply. You need a UK registered current account and mobile number, and must be aged 16 or over. To find out more visit barclays.co.uk/pingit

Barclays Bank PLC is authorised and regulated by the Financial Services Authority (FSA). Registered in England. Registered No. 1026167. Registered Office: 1 Churchill Place, London E14 5HP.

KEVIN DAVIES

OPPOSITION VIEW



ANDY GREEVES TALKS TO BOLTON WANDERERS FORWARD KEVIN DAVIES.

» **WITH JUST FOUR GAMES OF THE BARCLAYS PREMIER LEAGUE SEASON REMAINING FOR RELEGATION-THREATENED BOLTON WANDERERS, THE TROTTERS ARRIVE HERE THIS AFTERNOON WITH A CLEAR OBJECTIVE IN MIND.**

"We need to be thinking about winning all four games," admits skipper Kevin Davies. "Usually you would view a point away from home at somewhere like Sunderland as a decent result. However, we're in that stage of the season now where only wins will do for us, so that's what will be hoping for. Our rivals down at the bottom have been coming up with some good results, so we have to do better than them in these last few weeks to stay up."

2011-12 is Bolton's 73rd season in the top-flight of English football overall and their 11th successive campaign in the Premier League since winning promotion through the play-offs in 2001. During their current spell in the elite division, they have twice qualified for the UEFA Cup (now the UEFA Europa League) and are often cited by newly promoted teams as something of a blueprint as far as their ability to stay in the division goes.

"We have worked very hard to maintain our status as a Barclays Premier League club over the years and everyone is determined to keep that run going,"



says Davies. "The league table doesn't lie at this stage of the season though and we are where we are because of the results we have had. We've got four games to put right what has been a very tough season."

"We don't want to make any excuses, but we have been without a couple of key players for pretty much the whole season and what happened to Fab [Fabrice Muamba] was very difficult for everyone associated with the club to deal with. We have to put all that behind us now though and just focus on staying in this division."

Everyone connected with Bolton Wanderers, indeed the football world as a whole, has been heartened by the remarkable recovery of Muamba, who suffered a cardiac arrest during an FA Cup quarter-final tie at Tottenham Hotspur on March 17. The midfielder was recently discharged from the London Chest Hospital and Davies says his team-mates can take a great deal of inspiration from Muamba's fight for life.

"Seeing him in the newspapers recently kicking a ball round has brought a smile to everyone's face," says Davies. "You never

imagine that you will have a day like we did at White Hart Lane where you see a team-mate and friend collapse on the pitch. We were all devastated, but we're so grateful he's in the position he is in now compared to back then. If we can show anywhere near the fight that Fab has shown off the field in our battle against relegation, then hopefully we'll still be in the Barclays Premier League next season."

Bolton have lost six and drawn just one of their last seven matches with Sunderland, making the Black Cats one of Wanderers' Premier League bogey sides. The Trotters' last victory was back on November 29, 2008 when goals from Matthew Taylor, Gary Cahill and a brace from Johan Elmander cancelled out Dijbril Cisse's opening goal to give the Lancashire side a 4-1 victory in what was Roy Keane's final match as Sunderland manager.

"Sunderland-Bolton games have tended to be fairly even encounters, although we haven't won against them for a little while now since that match when Elmander scored twice," confirms Davies. "There was a stage in the season where Sunderland were down with us in the relegation shake-up this season, so it speaks volumes for their progress under Martin O'Neill that they are well out of danger now. We know they will give us a tough game, but we're up for the challenge." 1

GUDNI BERGSSON

AS PART OF A REGULAR SERIES **ANDY GREEVES** TALKS TO FORMER SUNDERLAND OPPONENTS ABOUT MEMORIES OR CONNECTIONS TO THE BLACK CATS. TODAY, FORMER BOLTON WANDERERS DEFENDER GUDNI BERGSSON RECALLS COMING UP AGAINST SUNDERLAND'S DIVISION ONE TITLE-WINNING SIDE OF 1998-99.

» **THERE WERE NO SHORTAGE OF ADMIRERS FOR PETER REID'S SUNDERLAND SIDE DURING THE 1998-99 SEASON AS THE LADS STORMED THEIR WAY TO THE OLD DIVISION ONE TITLE. THE BLACK CATS AMASSED A THEN-RECORD POINTS TALLY OF 105 TO TOP THE TABLE AT THE END OF THE CAMPAIGN, WINNING 31 GAMES, DRAWING 12 AND LOSING JUST THREE MATCHES. THEY ALSO SCORED 91 LEAGUE GOALS IN THE PROCESS.**

Unsurprisingly, the chasing pack found it difficult to keep up with the pace and come the end of the season, second placed Bradford City finished 18 points behind Reid's men. Bolton Wanderers, who secured themselves a place in the play-offs having finished sixth, were 29 points off Sunderland meanwhile.

"They were annoyingly good," laughs former Bolton Wanderers defender Gudni Bergsson, reflecting on the Sunderland class of 1998-99. The Icelandic, who also played for Tottenham Hotspur during a 15-year career in England, was in Bolton's side that went down 3-0 to Sunderland at Burnden Park on November 1, 1998. He also watched on from the sidelines when the Black Cats beat the Trotters 3-1 at the Stadium of Light on March 20, 1999 that same season.

"They (Sunderland) were worthy champions

that season (1998-99) and were a team in every sense of the word - well organised, difficult to break down and with superb attacking options too. Their forward options of (Niall) Quinn and (Kevin) Phillips, as well as Danny Dichio and Michael Bridges, was the envy of most Premier League clubs, let alone teams in the old Division One. It only goes to show how good they were because they did so well in the Premier League the season after they had been promoted, finishing seventh."

Two of the main components of that great Sunderland side of 1998-99 would become team-mates of Bergsson

at Bolton Wanderers. Scottish winger Allan Johnston moved to the Lancashire club on loan in 2000, making 19 League appearances and scoring three goals. He had played 47 games and made one substitute appearance, scoring eight goals, during Sunderland's title-winning success. Nicky Summerbee, who made 41 starts, two substitute appearances and scored three goals for the Black Cats in 1999-99, meanwhile signed permanently for Bolton in 2001.

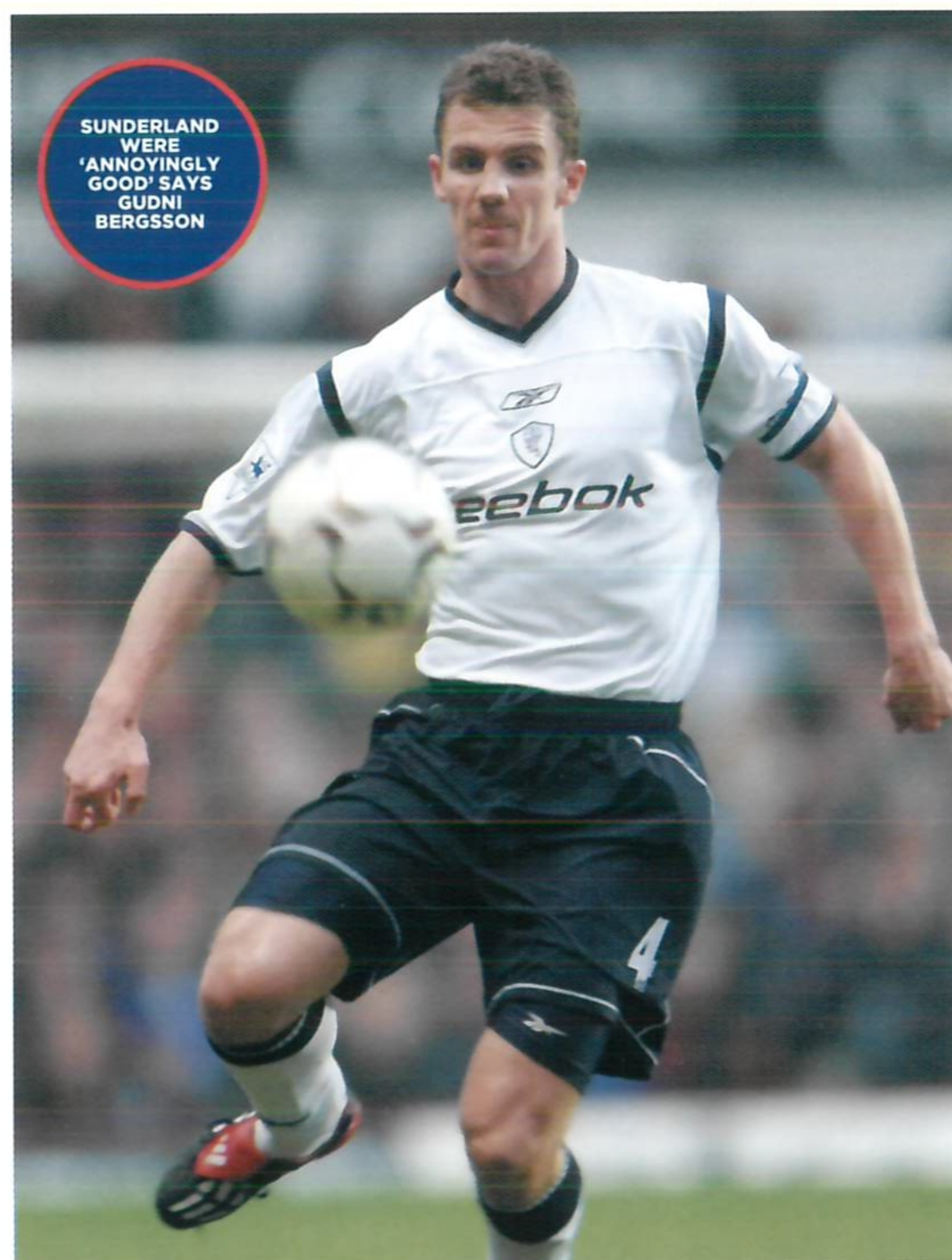
"They were great players and good lads, who both made welcome, albeit brief, contributions to the success we

would go on to have at Bolton," reflects Bergsson. Following play-off heartbreak for Wanderers in 1998-99, losing 2-0 in the final to Watford, they would be promoted two seasons later, beating Preston North End 3-0 at Cardiff's Millennium Stadium in the old Division One Play-off Final.

"That victory was one of my happiest days in football," reflects Bergsson, who has worked as a lawyer in his home city of Reykjavik since hanging up his boots in 2003. "The play-offs can be brilliant and they can also be very cruel. It was bitterly disappointing to lose in 1999. To get so close to going up and to have that snatched away at the final hurdle is pretty hard to take. To triumph in the final is one of the best feelings ever though and I am so grateful I got to experience that two years later."

Bergsson is a regular viewer of Premier League matches, presenting a highlights show called 4-4-2 in Iceland, which reviews the weekend's action from England's top-flight. The first result he will be looking out for today will undoubtedly be the one from the Stadium of Light.

"It's a huge game for Bolton and one I'm obviously willing them to win," he says. "The club has been a top-flight team ever since our play-off victory in 2001 and I think the side has enough quality to stay up once again come the end of the season." ①



AWAY THE LADS

HARRY BARRETT CHECKS OUT A COUNTY DURHAM BORN FOOTBALLER WHO PLAYED FOR TODAY'S VISITORS BUT NOT SUNDERLAND.

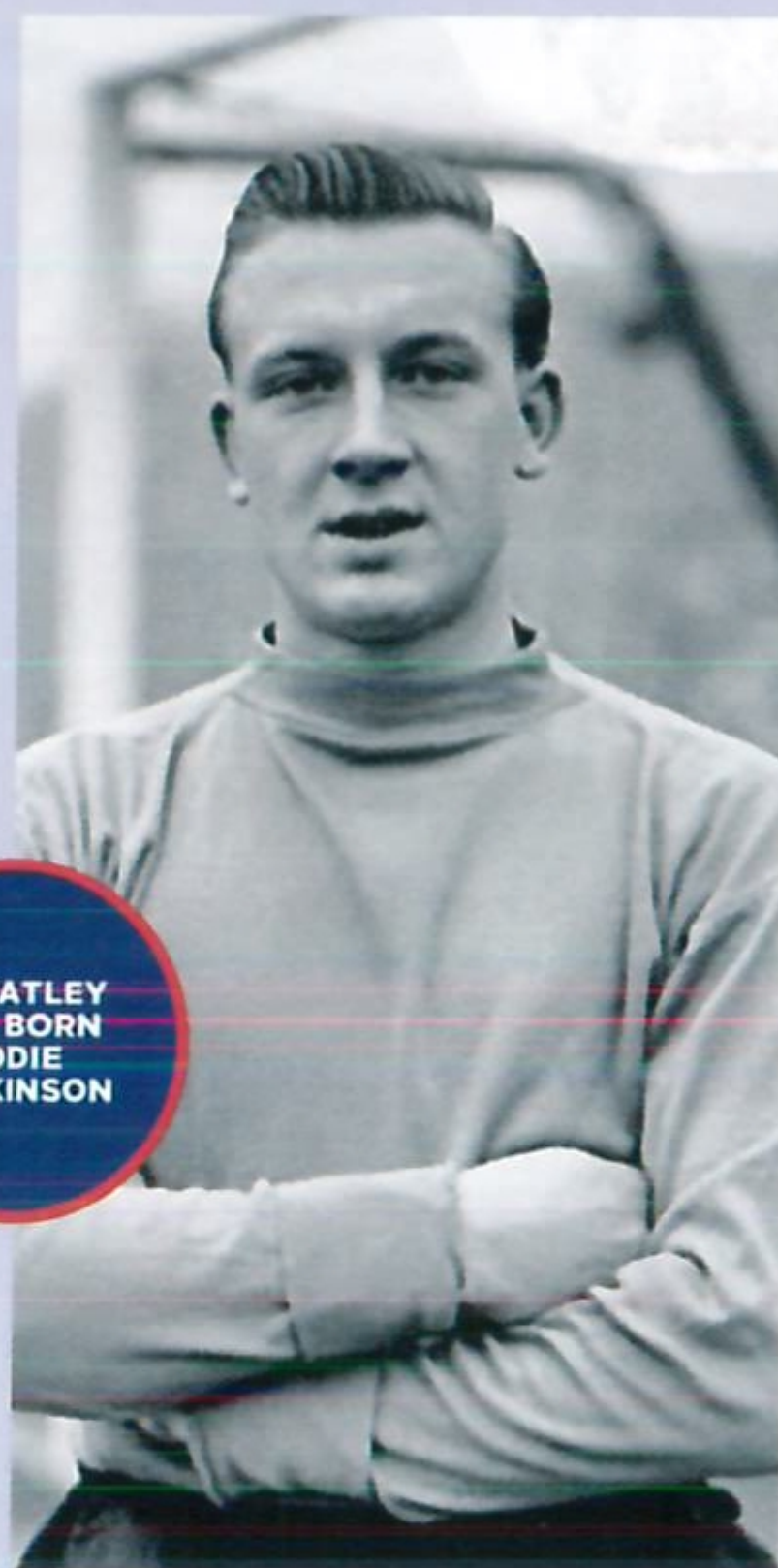
» **EDDIE HOPKINSON REMAINS A BOLTON LEGEND, HOLDING THE CLUB'S LEAGUE APPEARANCE RECORD OF 519 MATCHES BETWEEN THE STICKS. HE RETIRED IN NOVEMBER 1969 WHEN WEARSIDE HERO CHARLIE HURLEY WAS THE TROTTERS PIVOT.**

Though regarded a Lancastrian, along with FA Cup winning contemporaries Nat Lofthouse, Doug Holden, Tommy Banks and Derek Hennin, the future England goalie was actually born in Wheatley Hill.

Hopkinsons go back generations in the County Durham pit village, one of whom was a prisoner of war while serving with the DLI, but Eddie, 'nowt but a bairn' moved with his family to Royton.

Initially a wing half, Eddie's goalkeeping prowess earned schoolboy selection for his adopted county and the attention of Third Division North Oldham. As a 16-year-old Eddie toggled out for the Latics three times in January 1952, including an 11-2 win over Chester on a snow covered Boundary Park.

Months later he joined Bolton and manager Bill Ridding, who remained the Trotters' mentor for all



WHEATLEY HILL BORN
EDDIE HOPKINSON

but the last 18 months of Eddie's career.

Talented Hopkinson may have been, but veteran Stan Hanson and Lancashire cricketer Ken Grieves barred his path to top-flight football. Eddie had to wait until August 1956 before making his Bolton debut.

Three months before his 21st birthday Hopkinson played in a 4-1 win over Blackpool, Lofthouse scoring a hat-trick. His second match was at Roker and in the land of his birth Eddie suffered defeat, Billy Elliott netting twice in the 3-0 Sunderland victory.

He remained an ever-present as Bolton finished

ninth and completed the double over championship winners Manchester United, the incomparable Busby Babes. The following season Wanderers again lowered United's colours in one of the most emotional Cup Finals ever, with neutrals willing Bolton to lose.

The 1958 Wembley showpiece came three months after Munich. Old Trafford's makeshift eleven swept to the final on a tide of national sentiment, but Bolton, supposed fall guys, took an early lead through Lofthouse.

On 54 minutes the match turned. Bobby Charlton, just 20, a Munich survivor, thundered a shot against the post. A beaten Hopkinson, instead of picking the equalising goal from the net, gratefully accepted the rebound. Eddie's clearance began a passage of play that ended with Lofthouse, the 'Lion of Vienna', bundling ball and Harry Gregg across the line for Bolton's FA Cup winning clincher.

As well as a winner's medal and still 22, Hopkinson had completed 83 games for Bolton. He remained first choice 'keeper for the next 11 years.

Standing just 5'9", his bravery, agility and positional judgement more than compensated for a lack of physical stature when goalies were fair game for challenges fair and foul - as Lofthouse's sortie with Gregg amply demonstrated.

Particularly adept dealing with one on ones, Hopkinson's timing was exceptional. According to Lofthouse he would remain

standing until the last possible moment before spreading himself star like, more at the forward's feet.

Chatting at Roker in the mid 1990s Bolton's legendary striker clearly had a genuine fondness for his former team-mate. Hopkinson, he felt, was unjustly sidelined by England and deserved far more than 14 full caps.

After Under-23 recognition, Eddie made his international debut against Wales in 1957, but lost his place to Colin McDonald prior to the 1958 World Cup finals. Recalled in 1959, Hopkinson again lost out, this time to Ron Springett.

Perhaps his loyalty to Bolton cost him international caps. Removal of the maximum wage hit Lancastrian town clubs more than most and Wanderers began a downward spiral with relegation to Division Two in 1964.

When Hopkinson played his last matches in November 1969, the Trotters were sliding down the charts. Just 7,900 watched the match and two years later they were in Division Three.

Bolton though remained special to the Wheatley Hill man. He coached the club's reserves and juniors and following a period with Stockport, returned as a goalkeeping coach. Even when he finally left football's paid employment, Eddie, an inaugural member of the club's Hall of Fame, worked as a host on matchdays.

Eddie Hopkinson, born in County Durham was most definitely an adopted Boltonian. 1

» EDDIE HOPKINSON - TROTTERS' HERO

Born: 29 October 1935. Died 25 April 2004

Debut: August 1956 v Blackpool won 4-1

Last game: November 1969 v Sheffield Utd drawn 0-0

519 league games, 38 FA Cup games, 21 FL Cup games. FA Cup winner 1958. 14 England caps, 6 Under 23 caps, 2 Football League games



caer urfa



SUPPORTERS BRANCH

Bill Wilkinson
Maureen Wilkinson
Joanne Nicholson
Mark Nicholson
Dave Handy
Matt Handy
Gary Craig
Tony Boyce
Michael Gaffney
Claire Stephenson
Glenn Holstrom
Glenn Holstrom (Jnr)
Mark Cruickshank
Carl Langley
Alex Wyatt
Kelsey Wade
Tom Wade
Tom Wade (Jnr)
Sylvia Douglass
Jim Douglass

BY MIKE GIBSON

CLUB CONNECTIONS



HAT-TRICKS OR BETTER

John Campbell (4 goals)	A	25 Oct 1890	5-2
George Holley	H	6 Dec 1913	3-2
John Paterson	H	14 Apr 1922	6-2
Charlie Buchan (4 goals)	H	16 Sep 1922	5-1
Bobby Marshall	H	19 Apr 1927	6-2
Bobby Gurney (4 goals)	H	29 Oct 1932	7-4
Bobby Gurney (5 goals)	H	7 Dec 1935	7-2
Darren Bent	H	9 Mar 2010	4-0

	BIGGEST VICTORY		WORST DEFEAT	
HOME	7-2	7 Dec 1935	1-4	29 Nov 2008
AWAY	5-2	25 Oct 1890	1-6	21 Jan 1899

SIGNED

El Hadji Diouf	2008
Michael Bridges	2004
Peter Barnes	1989
Sam Allardyce	1980
Barry Siddall	1976
Alex Donaldson	1922
James Leslie	1897

TRANSFERRED

Emerson Thome	2003
Nick Summerbee	2001
Steve Whitworth	1981
Ray Train	1977
Charlie Hurley	1969
James Davison	1963
John Bolland	1960
George Ainsley	1936
John B. Johnston	1922
Hugh Morgan	1899

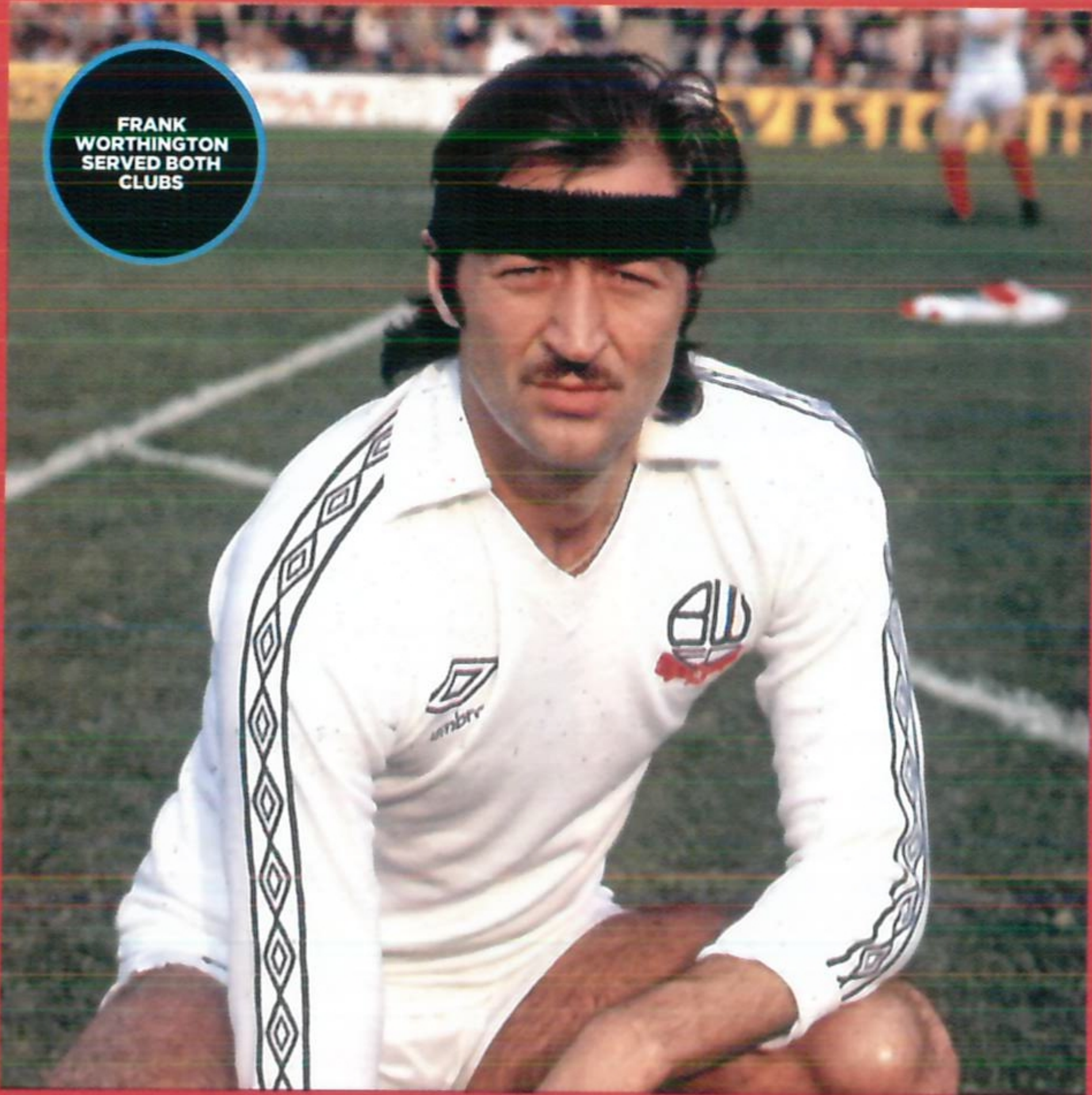
* All competitions

	P	W	D	L	F	A
HOME	72	47	13	12	161	72
AWAY	72	16	19	37	80	122
TOTAL	144	63	32	49	241	194

Notice a particularly warm handshake? Here's Dominic Gold's guide to where paths have crossed...

DON'T I KNOW YOU?

PLAYER	CONNECTION
2. Phil BARDSLEY	Chris EAGLES for MANCHESTER UNITED.
3. Wayne BRIDGE	Zat KNIGHT for FULHAM.
	Martin PETROV at MANCHESTER CITY.
4. Michael TURNER	Sam RICKETTS for HULL CITY.
	Darren PRATLEY for BRENTFORD.
5. Wes BROWN	Zat KNIGHT for ENGLAND.
	Chris EAGLES for MANCHESTER UNITED.
6. Lee CATTERMOLLE	Fabrice MUAMBA for ENGLAND U21s.
	TUNCAY and David WHEATER for MIDDLESBROUGH.
7. Sebastien LARSSON	Fabrice MUAMBA for ARSENAL and BIRMINGHAM CITY.
8. Craig GARDNER	Fabrice MUAMBA for ENGLAND U21s.
	Zat KNIGHT and Nigel REO-COKER for ASTON VILLA.
9. Fraizer CAMPBELL	Fabrice MUAMBA for ENGLAND U21s.
	Chris EAGLES for MANCHESTER UNITED.
11. Kieran RICHARDSON	Zat KNIGHT for ENGLAND.
	Chris EAGLES at MANCHESTER UNITED.
12. Matt KILGALLON	Robbie BLAKE for SHEFFIELD UNITED.
15. David VAUGHAN	Sam RICKETTS for WALES.
16. John O'SHEA	Chris EAGLES for MANCHESTER UNITED.
17. Ji DONG-WON	Chung-Yong LEE for SOUTH KOREA.
22. Simon MIGNOLET	Dedryck BOYATA for BELGIUM.
52. Nicklas BENDTNER	Fabrice MUAMBA for ARSENAL and BIRMINGHAM CITY.
	Ryo MIYAICHI for ARSENAL.
Martin O'NEILL	Zat KNIGHT and Nigel REO-COKER for ASTON VILLA.
Steve WALFORD	Zat KNIGHT and Nigel REO-COKER for ASTON VILLA.
Kevin BALL	Stuart HOLDEN for SUNDERLAND.



FRANK WORTHINGTON SERVED BOTH CLUBS

» WORN BOTH COLOURS

The following players have also represented both teams during their careers:

Tal Ben Haim, Andy Dibble, Robbie Elliott, Wayne Entwistle, Carsten Fredgaard, Alan Hay, Joe Hewitt, Darren Holloway, Allan Johnston, Jason McAteer, Gavin McCann, Seamus McDonagh, Alan Stubbs, Fred Thompson and Frank Worthington.

Sam Allardyce, Stan Anderson, George Mulhall and Colin Todd all managed Bolton Wanderers. In addition ex-Trotter Peter Reid led the Black Cats to two promotions. 1

CATCH FRAIZ!



THIS WEEK **PHIL BARDSLEY** WILL TAKE ON **SEBASTIAN LARSSON** FOR A PLACE IN THE FINAL AGAINST JOHN O'SHEA. WHO WILL GET THROUGH?

Vier is the word for four in which language?

Larsson: German

Bardsley: I didn't do it at school but I think it's German?

Answer: German

Who knocked Manchester United out of this season's FA Cup?

Larsson: Manchester City or Liverpool I think. I'll go for Liverpool

Bardsley: It was Liverpool

Answer: Liverpool

Thomas Vermaelen is from which country?

Larsson: From Belgium

Bardsley: Is he Belgian?

Answer: Belgium



DAVID BAILEY

David Bailey CBE is famous for what?

Larsson: Photography. Did he take pictures of people like Twiggy?

Bardsley: Photography

Answer: Photography

Which Super League side are known as the Vikings?

Larsson: I'll go for Widnes?

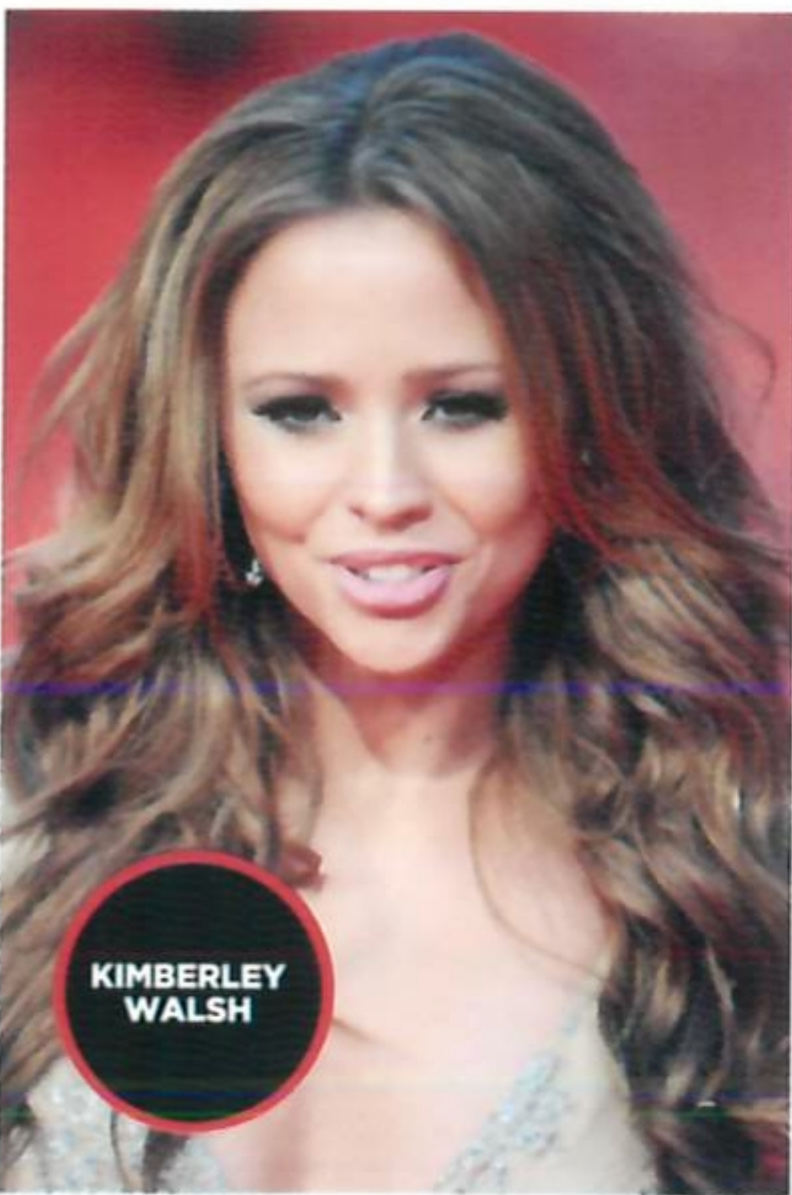
Bardsley: Too easy this one! It's Widnes

Answer: Widnes





SACHIN
TENDULKAR



KIMBERLEY
WALSH

Kimberley Walsh is a member of which pop band?
Larsson: Guess at Girls Aloud?
Bardsley: Girls Aloud
Answer: Girls Aloud

Who became the first cricketer to score 100 international centuries in March 2012?
Larsson: Sachin Tendulkar
Bardsley: Tendulkar?
Answer: Sachin Tendulkar



Which of the seven wonders of the world is in India?
Larsson: Taj Mahal
Bardsley: Taj Mahal
Answer: Taj Mahal

The Durham Wildcats play which sport?
Larsson: Basketball
Bardsley: This one is basketball isn't it?
Answer: Basketball

Which ex pop-star designed the interior of the Range Rover Evoque?
Larsson: Victoria Beckham
Bardsley: Posh Spice
Answer: Victoria Beckham

A tough battle by the pair who cannot be separated both scoring ten out of ten. It's all to play for with a place up for grabs in the final. As a tie breaker we've asked Seb and Phil to predict today's attendance. Whoever proves to be nearest will edge out the other. A gate of under 38,126 will see Bardsley progress while anything over that will see Larsson move into the final which will be against John O'Shea in the final issue of Red and White for the season.

Larsson: 39,762
Bardsley: 36,500



'CATCH FRAIZ' TABLE		
	P	Pts
LARSSON	2	19
O'SHEA	2	19
BARDSLEY	2	18
COLBACK	2	18
WESTWOOD	2	18
BROWN	2	17
GORDON	2	17
MEYLER	2	17
TURNER	2	17
GARDNER	2	16
MIGNOLET	2	16
VAUGHAN	2	16
WICKHAM	2	16
BENDTNER	2	15
CATTERMOLE	2	15
RICHARDSON	2	15



More to play for than just tickets

Every 90 minutes, there's a pair of Barclays Premier League tickets up for grabs. But if you don't win you're also entitled to receive a pack of exclusive Barclays Topps Authenticity Trading cards just for entering, when you play online.

Find out more at barclaysticketoffice.com



Barclays Ticket Office: Terms and conditions apply. For full terms and conditions and a detailed list of prizes visit www.barclaysticketoffice.com. Minimum age of entry is 16 years. UK residents only. There is pair of Barclays Premier League tickets available to be won every 90 minutes. Each code is valid for one entry. Winnings limited to once per individual per month and once per household per month. Winners will be notified immediately. Barclays Bank PLC. Registered in England. Registered No. 1026167. Registered Office: 1 Churchill Place, London.

Topps Terms and Conditions: 1) A pack of Barclays Topps Cards is awarded for each Eligible Entry. Entrants can receive up to 10 sequential packs of Barclays Topps Cards. Each pack contains 5 Barclays Premier League player cards. With pack 2, you will also receive a box to hold your cards in. Players in each of cards are fixed and will not change throughout the 2011/12 season (even if the players stop playing for a particular team). 2) The award is limited to 10 packs per entrant and up to 5 sets per household for the duration of the promotion. 3) All Eligible Entries will be offered the chance to receive a pack of Barclays Topps Cards, unless the entrant opts out.

DOUG WEATHERALL

2011-12 MARKS VETERAN JOURNALIST **DOUG WEATHERALL'S** 70TH SEASON WATCHING SUNDERLAND AND THIS SEASON HE RECALLS SOME OF HIS FONDEST MEMORIES OF THOSE SEVEN DECADES. HERE, DOUG COMPILES HIS GREATEST SUNDERLAND XI.

THE BOSS

» I COMPLETED THE CHOICE OF DOUG'S MAGNIFICENT 70 TEAM IN THE PREVIOUS "RED & WHITE", SO NOW I SELECT THEIR MANAGER. REGULAR READERS WILL KNOW WHO MY DREAM BOSS WOULD HAVE BEEN: BRIAN CLOUGH, OF COURSE. SADLY, SUNDERLAND NEVER HAD THE SENSE TO APPOINT HIM WHEN HE WANTED THE JOB.

So my pick is from those who have had the reins; all 30, including "caretakers", since 1941: from Bill Murray to Martin O'Neill.

Over many years managers have claimed, too often in mitigation, that you must bear in mind "starting points" when assessing them.

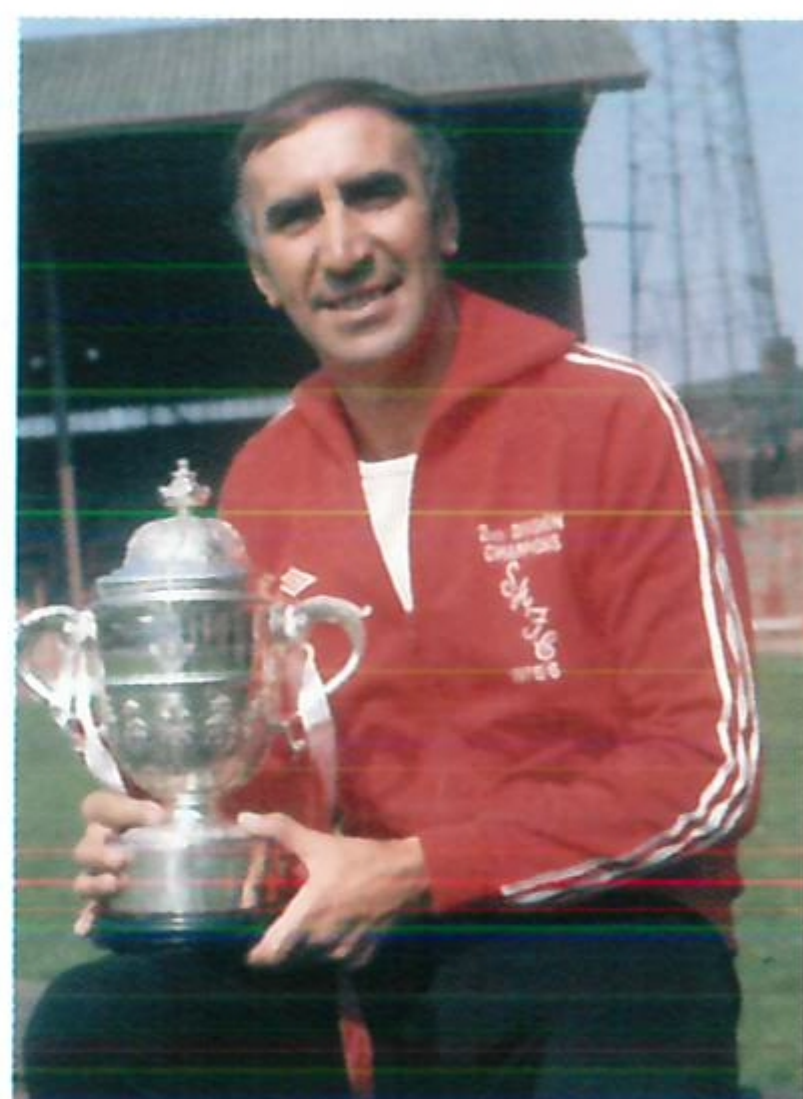
But for my essential criterion I cite Joe Mercer, who won top prizes as a fine wing-half, captain and manager. He'd say: "Put your medals on the table".

This narrows the field immensely here. Even counting promotion runners-up as medal winners, the only contenders are:

Alan Brown (1964 promotion from the League's second grade) - but also managed first two relegations from the top division;

Bob Stokoe (FA Cup winner 1973 and second-grade champions 1976) - but in charge briefly at end of 1987 relegation season;

Ken Knighton (1980 promotion from second grade);



Denis Smith (third-grade champions 1988 and promotion from second grade in 1990) - but relegated from top grade 1991;

Peter Reid (second grade champions 1996 and '99) but suffered relegation 1997;

Mick McCarthy (second-grade champions 2004) but relegated in 2003;

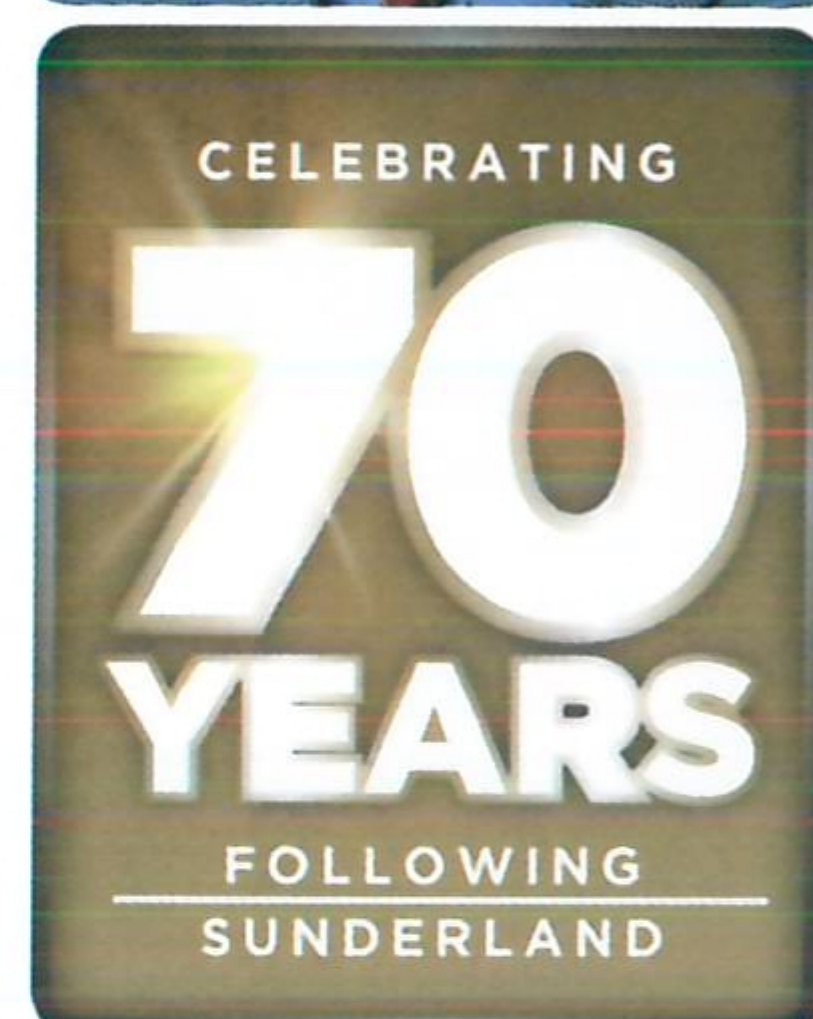
Roy Keane (second-grade champions 2007).

No prizes then for guessing my man. It has to be Bob Stokoe.

Little wonder his statue helps a welcome to the Stadium of Light. Little wonder I thrill at the sight of young and old having their photographs taken in front of that wonderful memorial.

Bob's great deeds were achieved while he was based at Sunderland's previous home, Roker Park, but also encompass old grounds like Maine Road, Manchester, Hillsborough, Sheffield, and, of course, Wembley.

In my 63 years of journalism I have reported remarkably improbable stories like Newcastle United winning the Inter-Cities Fairs Cup after qualifying from tenth place in the old top division, Middlesbrough's climb from the doom of financial meltdown and



on-loan goalkeeper Jimmy Glass's only goal in the fifth minute of stoppage-time to keep Carlisle United in the Football League.

But for a happy ending to a six-month fairytale nothing can top Sunderland's 1973 winning of the Cup. Bob's job brief, remember, was to save the club from a first drop to the League's third grade. My goodness, he fulfilled that. They climbed from the depths of Division Two to a final spot which would, these days, have put them in the promotion play-offs.

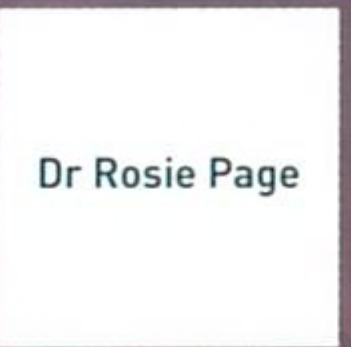
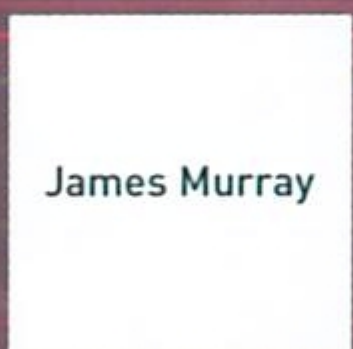
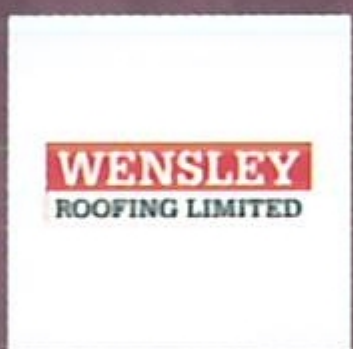
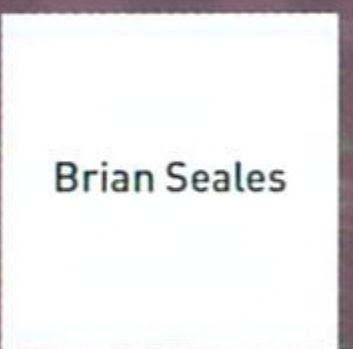
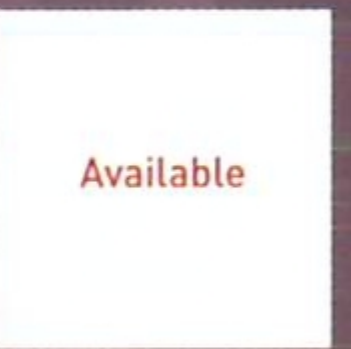
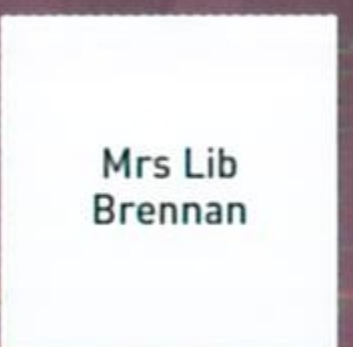
Corresponding with that ascent, they deservedly knocked out successive favourites in the Cup - Manchester City in Round Five, Arsenal in the semis and Leeds United in the final.

I had the honour of delivering eulogies at Bob's funeral in Newcastle and a memorial service in Sunderland. I wasn't short of material...



KIT SPONSORS

SAFC WOULD LIKE TO EXTEND SINCERE THANKS TO THIS SEASON'S PLAYER'S KIT SPONSORS.

							
Craig Gordon SAFC Disabled Branch		Phil Bardsley 3663		Michael Turner Dr Rosie Page		Wes Brown Castrol Marine Energy & Industrial	
							
Lee Cattermole H M Dent & Sons		Sebastian Larsson SAFC Supporters Association		Craig Gardner SAFC Supporters Association		Fraizer Campbell Kail & Company Ltd	
							
Connor Wickham James Murray		Kieran Richardson Cubix Interiors		Jack Colback Washington Components Ltd		David Vaughan Wisemove	
							
John O'Shea Wensley Roofing		Ji Dong-Won Brian Seales		David Meyler Media 73		Titus Bramble	
							
Keiren Westwood		Oumare Tounkara		Simon Mignolet Hagen		James McClean RKIM Ltd	
							
Jordan Cook		Ahmed Elmohamady New City Flooring		Stéphane Sessegnon Beacon Electrical		Nicklas Bendtner 3663	

Get up close and personal with your favourite Sunderland hero with our player's kit sponsorship package from £800.

Alongside a champagne reception, a delicious four-course meal and a tour of the dressing room for four guests, you can cheer your sponsored player to victory from your executive seat in the West Stand. And to cap off a thrilling day your hero will present you with his actual match shirt, personally signed.

Call 0871 911 1555 for more details.

RED & WHITE CROSSWORD

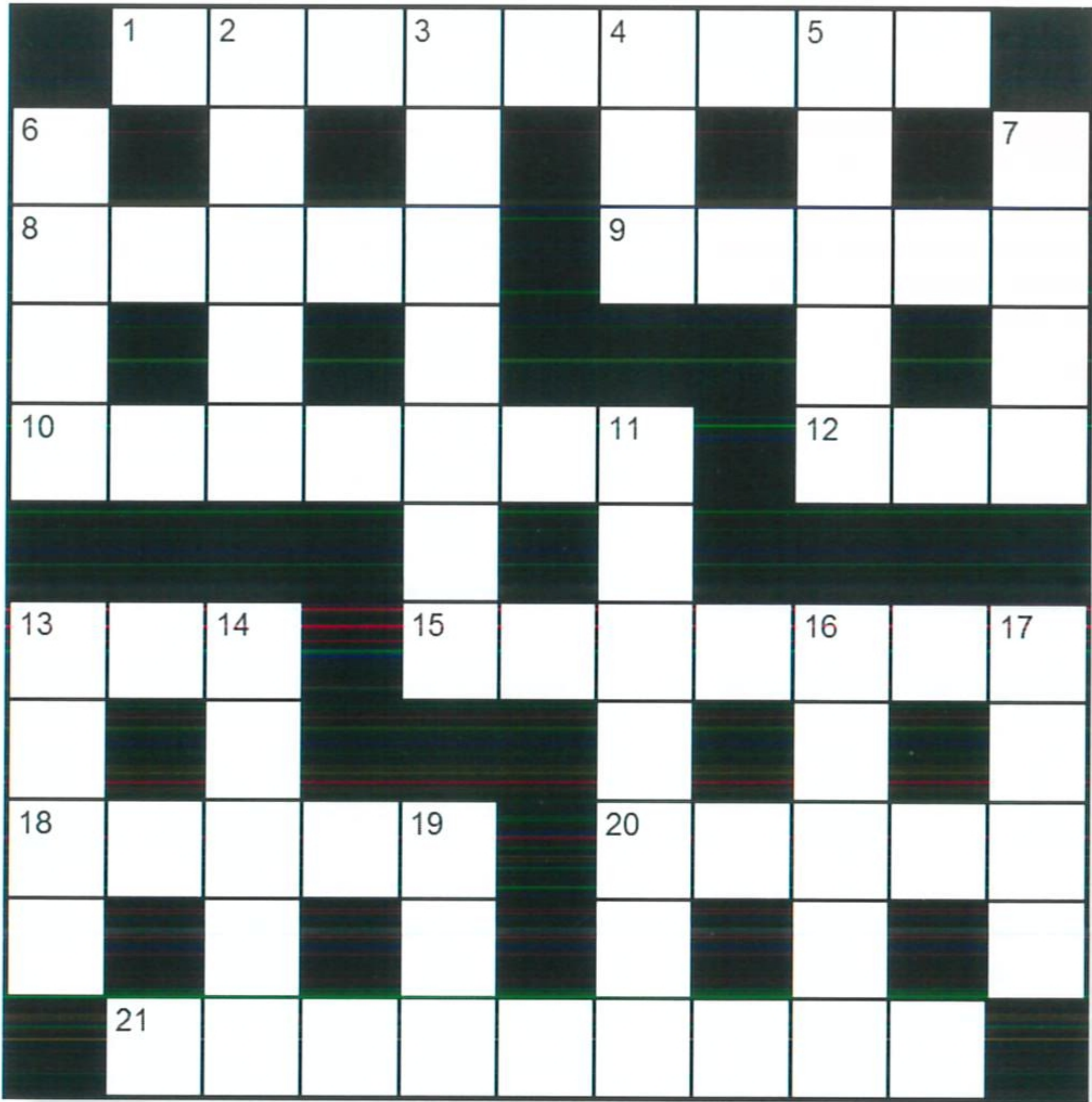


» ACROSS

- 1 He scored both Bolton's goals in 1958 FA Cup Final win (9)
- 8 Player, but not necessarily a footballer (5)
- 9 SAFC have won FA Cup ____ (5)
- 10 Two-piece swimming costume (7)
- 12 Like 1,3,5,7 (3)
- 13 Short name for a large inland sea (3)
- 15 Colour of 11 down? (7)
- 18 Like a roll or Philippe Senderos? (5)
- 20 One of the Ferdinand brothers (5)
- 21 Bolton manager, 1999-2007 (9)

» DOWN

- 2 Frequently (like the decimal system?) (5)
- 3 Machine tribune's adjusted (7)
- 4 Bowled or caught perhaps (3)
- 5 _____ Rovers from 11 down, Cup winners in 2010 and 2011 (5)
- 6 Forename of pioneer of animated cartoon films (4)
- 7 Ex-Bolton midfielder, who later managed SAFC (4)
- 11 Where it all began for Hurley and Quinn (7)
- 13 It could be worn to protect after facial injury (4)
- 14 _____ Field, in Northwich, very old ground, closed in 2002 (5)
- 16 It's as high as you can go indoors (5)
- 17 Fellows from Milton Keynes? (4)
- 19 Health resort featured in centre of newspaper (3)



Most of the answers are football related but not all of them are and You'll find the answer on page 82.

N.B.



» IT GOES WITHOUT SAYING TODAY'S MATCH WILL BE COLOURED IN SOME FORM BY THE EVENTS AT WHITE HART LANE WHEN FABRICE MUAMBA COLLAPSED ON THE PITCH. BLESSEDLY IT HAS TURNED OUT WELL FOR MUAMBA AND THE TONE IS UPLIFTED AND THE SHADOW CAST OVER BOLTON IN THE WEEKS FOLLOWING THE COLLAPSE MUST SURELY HAVE LONG BEEN LIFTED.

Thinking back to the night it all unfolded, Gary Bennett and I were driving back from Goodison Park following Sunderland's lunchtime draw with Everton. Listening to the 'drama' develop was

for both of us gripping. It is times like this one realises the power and the potential of radio and how, when it is done well, it can be more intense and powerful than television.

There is a fine line to be drawn though between reporting an event and becoming a participant of the drama. There were some that night that slipped over that line and became too emotionally involved in Muamba's plight. It was uncomfortable listening to one reporter in particular who became overly absorbed in speculation and gave us an impression of being almost a close friend of Muamba when I suspect he has probably never even met the

player. It is at times like this that journalists/ reporters should be dispassionate and report objectively what they see, albeit reverentially in tone.

Listening was in a way an ear on the world of 'Twitter' and how the social networking site has changed the boundaries of our reaction to events in which, in all honesty, we have no intimacy. We feel almost honour bound to become emotionally entangled and I found that all a little uncomfortable. Nevertheless, one's best wishes are sincerely extended to Fabrice Muamba. 1

Nick Barnes

Remember to tune in to 'Total Sport' every weeknight at half past 5.

PETER STRONACH

ROB MASON SEARCHES FOR PLAYERS FROM THE PAST.

» **PETER STRONACH ONLY STARTED TWO GAMES FOR SUNDERLAND, BOTH AGAINST BOLTON WANDERERS IN THE 1977-78 SEASON.**

Those that remember Peter still insist that Stronach's is a name that but for injury would be revered by supporters. "We came through the youth team together and he was the best player in our group by a mile," says no less a figure than Gary Rowell. "He had so much talent and it was such a pity he suffered so badly through injuries. It was a loss to Peter and a loss to Sunderland as well because the club had a top, top player on their hands."

Capped eight times by England Schoolboys when his Sunderland school St.Thomas Aquinas, had two players in the England team - Wilf Rostron who played for Sunderland, Arsenal and four other clubs was the other - Stronach was a wispy winger with more tricks than Paul Daniels. However, as Peter explains: "I broke my leg twice in the space of 12 months when I was 17. To be honest, in the cold light of day now, I wasn't the same player when I came back from my second leg break. I'd lost something, whatever spark I'd had and the extra half a yard of pace, it had gone. It just wasn't the same. I knew that and it affected my mental attitude."

A lesser man could have spent the rest of his life wondering what might have been, rather

like someone who'd lost a winning lottery ticket - but Stronach is made of sterner stuff: "I've always been the kind of person that that looked forwards rather than backwards and have tried to make the best of things. I think I've had a fantastic career," he says with the beaming smile of someone who knows how to enjoy life.

Before he moved on from football though Peter did play three times for the Lads and 38 league and cup games for York City. Today's visitors Bolton Wanderers provided the opposition for both of the Second Division games Peter started. Jimmy Adamson gave him his debut (alongside Rostron and

Rowell) in September '77 but in front of over 30,000 goals from Neil Whatmore and Peter Reid gave the visitors a 2-0 victory. It was almost six months later before Stronach got a second chance, coming on as sub in a goalless home draw with Southampton but doing well enough to start the next match. That was at Bolton's Burnden Park where Wanderers - en route to winning the league - again won 2-0, thanks to goals from Whatmore and the former Manchester United winger Willie Morgan.

That was it for Peter who was released and signed for York City in the summer, the Minstermen having just won promotion

back into the Football League. Debuting for City at Rochdale, Peter made 28 league and cup appearances in his first year - his two goals coming in wins over Darlington and Crewe 33 years ago this month. His second season saw him list Peter Lorimer - the man Monty made the second part of his famous cup final double save from - as a team mate but a 4-3 defeat at Torquay in November '79 saw Stronach's farewell from senior football.

His professional footballing days over at the age of 24, Peter looked for a new career and explains: "After the disappointment of having to come out of professional football, the next best thing I could have done was to join the Fire Service. It has given me the opportunity to carry on with my sporting activities. The Fire Service offers massive sporting opportunities at local, area and national levels. You can have the chance to represent the service right across the UK and beyond. I've played in five European Fire Service championships and have played all over the world. I've made lifelong friends. I'm based at Washington which is the headquarters of the Tyne and Wear Fire Service. I served as an operational fire-fighter for 16 and a half years but for the last 14 I've been in our support services department. My role is to organise all the sports and social activities for the Fire Service in Tyne and Wear and that enables me to do something positive because I deeply



» PETER STRONACH

NOW AGED: 55

GAMES/GOALS: 2+1 / 0

OTHER CLUB: York City

BEST REMEMBERED AT SUNDERLAND FOR:

Being an extremely highly rated youngster whose career was curtailed by injury having started just two games - both against Bolton.

PETER DURING
THE 1977-78
SEASON WHEN
HE STARTED BOTH
GAMES AGAINST
BOLTON



believe in the importance of sport to people. I'm national secretary for the football section. I organise events for open age, over 35s and veterans football as well as five a side and then the national teams: England, UK and European Championships so I'm busy and I absolutely love it.

"When I left school football was the only thing I'd ever done. Fire-fighting was my second job but as with any job you get trained to do it. That training held me in good stead once I was confronted with the situations you can find yourself in as a fire-fighter. You have to deal with road traffic accidents and the deaths of young children and old people. It is hard to confront."

The demands of the job helped to keep the loss of a football career very much in perspective for Peter: "Exactly. I was in the bubble when I was a footballer. You have lots of things done for you and I just hope players today realise how lucky they are because they are very privileged but it is a short career."

Through injury Stronach's career was shorter than most but there was one more chance for him to play at Roker Park: "I'd only been in the Fire Service for six years and I was fortunate enough to find that the Fire Service national cup final was to be played at Roker Park. For me that was a dream," says Stronach of his Sunderland swan song.

Most Sunderland supporters don't get the chance to have played for the team they love so while Peter undoubtedly had the talent to have played much more, he did at least live the dream and pull on the stripes. "I've always supported Sunderland. I'm not a season ticket holder but I come to about six to eight games a season usually. I live in Sunderland near Barnes Park. To be part of the professional game and to have been around at the time of the 1973 cup win, although I was just a very young apprentice then, was a privilege."

A youngster when the champion of youth, Alan Brown, was in charge, Peter remembers: "It was Alan Brown who signed



me on as an apprentice. He was great with the younger players and you can imagine that as a 15 or 16-year-old for the manager of the club to ask you to come back in the afternoon and then for him to coach you was a massive lift for you. The trouble was that he was too much of a disciplinarian and he didn't really give the older pro's the freedom they really wanted. That's why he wasn't a great success. When Bob Stokoe came in he created a totally different atmosphere and that generated the success that we had in the cup run in 1973. He treated people like adults, like men which is probably why when Bob Stokoe came in there was a totally different attitude."

Speaking of attitude, Stronach's is spot on, but he is enormously modest about his days in the game: "I'd been thinking about joining the Former Players' Association for a long time but was hesitant about it because it's not as if I was a big star or anything. I only started two games so you feel as if you are intruding a bit and I just wanted to stay in the background. I talked to a few people about it though and it was Gary Bennett who had a big influence on me making the decision to join. The main people I've kept in touch with over the years have been Gary Rowell, Barry Dunn, Ritchie Pitt and Dick Malone. I played cricket against Ritchie for a few years so we're great rivals on the cricket field but I was a little bit embarrassed about being on the top table when Niall Quinn spoke at a Sporting Dinner." 1

HALF TIME SAVER

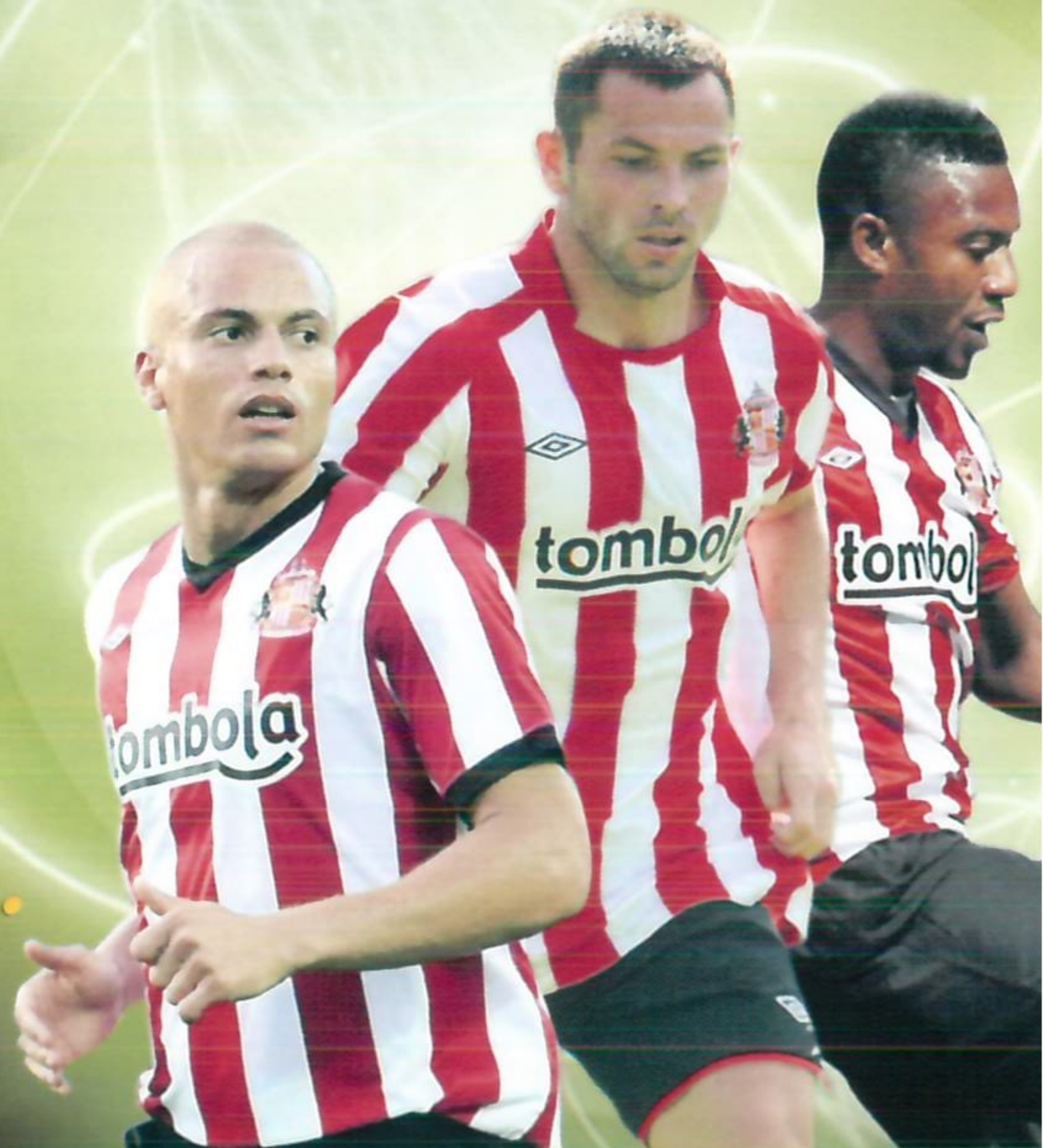
Paddy Power will refund ALL losing 4 fold accumulators and upwards if the bet is winning at H/T but not at F/T!

Sign up, Get a Free £50 Bet.
www.paddypower.com/safc

**FREE
£50 BET**

Paddy Power -

*Home of the
Money-Back Special.*



paddypower.com
poker • casino • betting • games

gambleaware.co.uk

AMONG OUR SOUVENIRS

CLUB HISTORIAN **ROB MASON** TELLS THE STORIES BEHIND SOME OF THE TROPHIES, MEDALS AND OTHER FOOTBALLING TREASURES ON DISPLAY AT THE STADIUM OF LIGHT.

» **SUNDERLAND'S LAST EVER MATCH IN THE ANGLO-ITALIAN CUP WAS AGAINST THAT WELL KNOWN SIDE FROM THE LAND OF THE AZZURRI... BOLTON WANDERERS.**

A 2-0 defeat at Burnden Park on September 14th 1993 defeated a Sunderland side that included at least two players guaranteed to be here today: current first-team masseur Craig Russell and BBC Newcastle summariser Gary Bennett. While Sunderland's four Anglo-Italian Cup games over two seasons in the early Nineties failed to produce a game against Italian opposition, the Lads

very first match in this cup was against Lazio way back on May 1st 1970.

Sunderland competed for the Anglo-Italian Cup in 1969-70 and 1971-72. In those days clubs were guaranteed to play two teams from each other's countries and meet them home and away. Thus Lazio and Fiorentina visited Roker Park in 1970, Sunderland making the return trips to Florence and Rome with all four games played in May.

A souvenir of the games with Lazio is this gift from the club from Rome showing the famous eagle that adorns Lazio's badge. The plaque shows the Lazio badge of the

time above the GB and Italian flags along with the inscription: '1st Torneo, Anglo-Italiano 1970.' You will find this on display in Quinn's bar.

1970 wasn't a great time for Sunderland to be undertaking such a venture as the Anglo-Italian Cup. The season had ended early on April 15th due to the World Cup finals. A home defeat at the hands of Liverpool meant the Lads had only just been relegated for the second ever time and a fortnight later Lazio drew a paltry 3,764 to Roker where at least two goals from Bobby Kerr added to one from Dennis Tueart supplied a 3-1 win. Just over a week later Mick McGiven and Bobby Park netted in a 2-2 Roker draw with Fiorentina before Alan Brown's side travelled to Italy.

John Tones made his debut as a sub and scored against Lazio in the Olympic Stadium only for the Lads to lose 2-1 in front of 15,400. Six days later a 3-0 defeat at the hands of Fiorentina saw the Lads bow out of the tournament. Later that summer England lost their title as world champions in the Mexico World Cup where Italy succumbed to Brazil's dazzling display in the final.

Two years later Sunderland once again entered the AIC, this time meeting Atalanta from Bergamo (near Milan) and Cagliari from the island of Sardinia. "I'd travelled with the squad to play Atalanta

not thinking I'd play but Ritchie Pitt got hurt the day before so I played," remembers defender Jackie Ashurst of his debut. "We were 2-0 up at half-time but then they changed their team around and we ended up losing 3-2. They were some of the noisiest fans I ever played in front of and I remember we had English refs out there and Italian refs when they came here."

Sunderland though did win the last of the four games they played in Italy in this competition, Bobby Kerr and John Lathan added to their goals at Atalanta by getting on the scoresheet at Cagliari along with Dennis Tueart as a 3-1 win was posted. It would be the only win of the quartet of games played in June 1972 however, as Atalanta drew 0-0 at Roker with Cagliari fighting back from 2-0 down to draw 3-3, Mick McGiven, Dennis Tueart and Dave Watson having scored for Sunderland.

The goals helped because in addition to two points for a win (which was the norm then) and one point for a draw, teams were also awarded one point for every goal scored. Sunderland though finished fifth out of the six English teams spread over three groups in each of the two 1970s tournaments entered and so failed to progress. Another AIC experiment in addition to points for goals was the 1972 trial of offside only being applicable 18-yards from goal. The result? Teams left a forward on the edge of the box and launched long balls to him. ①



A GIFT FROM LAZIO - QUINN'S BAR





FOUNDATION OF LIGHT

THE WORLD AT YOUR FEET



FOUNDATION OF LIGHT

THE WORLD AT YOUR FEET

FOUNDATION UNVEIL INSPIRATIONAL BRAND IDENTITY

» SAFC FOUNDATION OFFICIALLY CHANGED ITS NAME AT THE RECENT 'TOP SCORER' CELEBRATION EVENT HELD THIS WEEK, ANNOUNCING ITS AMBITIOUS PLANS FOR THE FUTURE BY UNVEILING AN INSPIRING NEW NAME AND BRAND IDENTITY - 'FOUNDATION OF LIGHT'.

In addition to its strong aspirational message, the new name embodies the essence of what the organisation stands and the Foundation's emotional link to Sunderland AFC and its home at the Stadium of Light.

The relationship is reinforced further by the positioning of distinctive graphic beams of light emanating from the heart of the club's badge, creating an emotive visual expression.

The new brand statement, 'The World at Your Feet', also communicates the Foundation's commitment to involve, inspire and educate young people and their families through its football related programmes.

Brand communications agency, Gardiner Richardson, were appointed to create a distinctive identity to strengthen the Foundation's position as a key player on the global stage.



FOUNDATION KICKZ STAFF, ATTENDEES AND PUPILS FROM WHITBURN PRIMARY SCHOOL

JUNIOR SPORTS LEADERS

» FOUNDATION OF LIGHT'S KICKZ STAFF AND ATTENDEES DELIVERED A 16-WEEK JUNIOR SPORTS LEADERS AWARD COURSE TO PUPILS FROM WHITBURN PRIMARY SCHOOL RECENTLY.

The course is aimed at improving leadership and communication skills as well as raising participants' self-esteem and confidence.

During the 16 weeks the issues of planning, delivering and evaluating a sporting session were

addressed. The course also covered topics such as verbal and non-verbal communication methods and the importance of a healthy lifestyle.

As part of the programme participants had to deliver three coaching sessions then complete a final assessment session.

Assessments were delivered to Years 3 and 4 and all course participants passed the course.

Foundation of Light would like to thank Mr. Peacock for his assistance and the use of facilities at the school.

Foundation of Light Chief Executive Lesley Spuhler commented:

"The new brand identity Gardiner Richardson led us through has not only developed a new name and identity, but also strengthened our collective ambition to take the Foundation to the next level, positioning us as a key player on the global stage by creating educational programmes which help influence lives for the better, worldwide. We felt that through the development of stronger branding we would be able to communicate and tell our story more effectively, be able to raise funds more efficiently and reach more people with our programmes."

Darren Richardson, Director at Gardiner Richardson, said:

"This has been a uniquely challenging project. To create a distinctive identity for the Foundation that could also sit seamlessly alongside the iconic Sunderland AFC badge was a real achievement by our design team. This was a really important consideration in the evolution of the brand; not only to reinforce its origins but also its future commitment to the club and their shared vision of improving people's lives through football."

LITTLE DRIBBLERS EXPANDS INTO DURHAM

» FOUNDATION OF LIGHT HAVE LAUNCHED A NEW SATURDAY SESSION OF THEIR HIGHLY SUCCESSFUL 'LITTLE DRIBBLERS' PROGRAMME.

'Little Dribblers' is a fun introduction for youngsters aged 3-5 years which is also mapped to Early Years Foundation Stages of the National Curriculum meaning that participants learn whilst playing.



'BACK ON TRACK' COORDINATOR ALLEN HALL WITH COURSE PARTICIPANTS AND FOUNDATION COACH STEVEN JACKSON

The sessions take place Saturday 10-11am at Durham Gilesgate Comprehensive School during term time only.

Parents are asked to pre-book for just £3 per session by calling 0191 5515191.

The programme is also currently delivered across Sunderland including sessions at the Stadium of Light on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday afternoons, and on Monday and Friday evenings and Saturday mornings at

Doxford Park Community Centre.

The programme has been running for just over a year with participants demonstrating personal, social and emotional development as well as improvement in problem solving and reasoning skills.

To book on the Gilesgate sessions or for further information about the 'Little Dribblers' programme call 0191 551 5191.

BACK ON TRACK

» 'BACK ON TRACK' LEVEL 1 IS A COURSE CURRENTLY RUNNING WITH YOUNG PEOPLE AGED 16 TO 19 YEARS, WHO ARE CLASSED AS NEET (NOT IN EMPLOYMENT, EDUCATION OR TRAINING). THE YOUNG PEOPLE ARE WORKING HARD TO IMPROVE THEIR CONFIDENCE, MOTIVATION AND LIFE SKILLS AS WELL AS GAINING FURTHER QUALIFICATIONS.

The programme funded by Springboard works with participants currently 16 on the course to gain the following qualifications EDEXCEL Numeracy, Literacy, Personal and Social development and BTEC Sport and Leisure.

Foundation's Back on Track Coordinator Allen Hall, was recently approached by Eltringham Salmon Fishing (NE) Ltd with an opportunity for course participants to enjoy a day's salmon

fishing on the River Tyne, at Prudhoe.

James Robbins, of Pure Fishing Ltd, kindly donated the Shakespeare rods and reels enabling all learners to take part. The site Ghillie was also on hand to provide expert tuition and advice to the learners.

Participants Liam Grime and Jordan Jefferson thoroughly enjoyed the experience describing it as, "an experience of a lifetime" and, "a day I will not forget."

Foundation of Light is delighted to have forged this new link with Eltringham Salmon Fishing and Pure Fishing and would like to thank all involved for making this a truly positive experience for our learners. For further information about Eltringham Salmon Fishing (NE) Ltd, please contact the manager on 07847272377 or the Ghillie on 07772769860

For further information about Back on Track Level 1 contact Allen Hall on 0191 551 5319 or email allen.hall@safc.com



'LITTLE DRIBBLER' PARTICIPANTS TAKING PART IN A SESSION

JAMES ROBBINS FROM PURE FISHING LTD



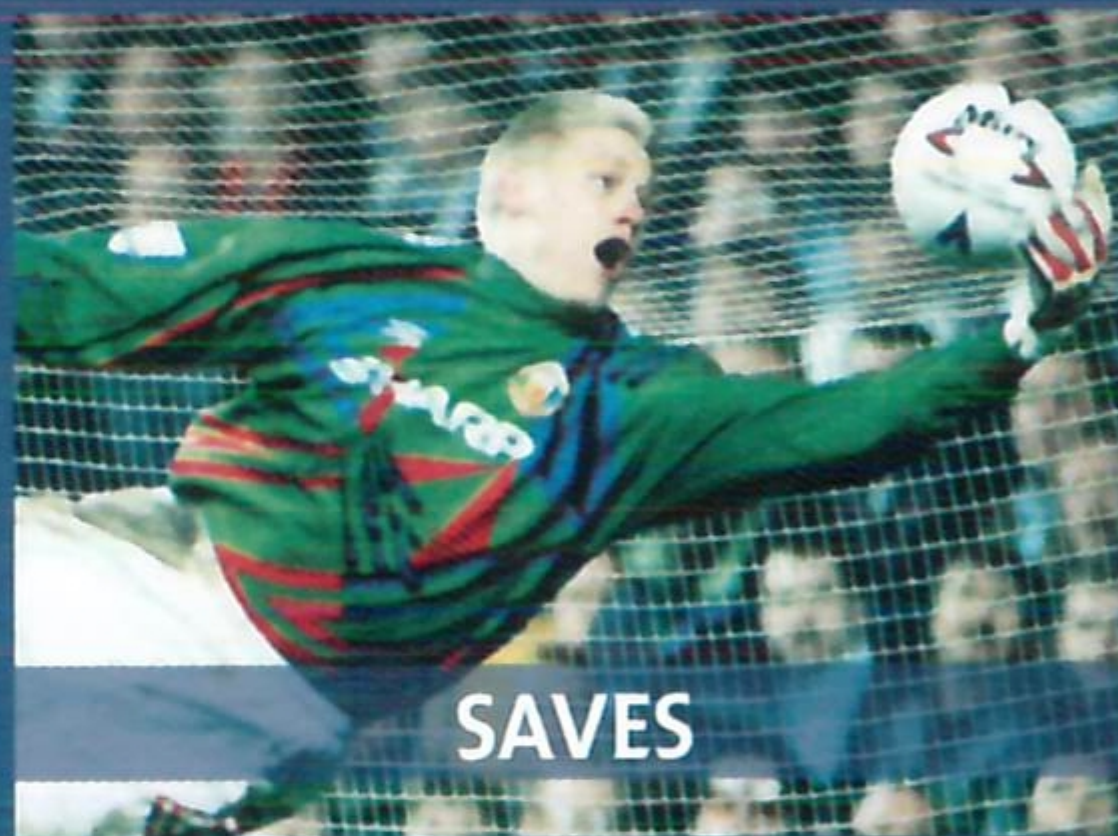
Winning number from the Wolves game: 2770

Sponsored by:
Mister Twister's



20 SEASONS *of* PREMIER LEAGUE

Vote for your favourites



20 Seasons Awards

The 2011/12 Season is the twentieth of the Premier League. To celebrate this, we are organising 20 Seasons Awards and want you to have your say on what you think have been the outstanding moments of football over the last two decades.

VISIT PREMIERLEAGUE.COM/20SEASONS

VOTING CLOSES 30 APRIL

THE OFFICIAL WEBSITE OF **SUNDERLAND AFC.**



THE POOMINATOR'S BACK!

» **SAFC.COM RECENTLY CAUGHT UP WITH MODERN-DAY BLACK CATS LEGEND MART POOM.**

The former goalkeeper was back on Wearside as part of ongoing work that he's doing with the club's official charity.

Poom and the Foundation hosted a soccer camp last summer in his native Estonia and he returned to Sunderland with some of the players who had taken part.

He kindly stopped for a chat with SAFC TV and filled us in on what he has been up to and what he makes of the progress his former club have made this season.

Poom told SAFC TV: "I'm back living in Estonia now and I'm working for FC Flora Tallinn, one of the big clubs in Estonia.

"Last summer I worked with the Foundation to organise a soccer camp at FC Flora Tallinn and some of the boys that we spotted there were invited for a trial.

"The courses we held with the Foundation went very well. There were 160 kids taking part and the feedback has been very positive - so much so that we're looking to hold a camp again this summer.

"Hopefully we'll find a few players for the future; most Premier League clubs are looking all over the world for players. As an ex-Sunderland player I hope to establish a link with this great club.

"There's been quite a few changes since I was at the club - and a few different managers - but I'm sure the club is moving in the right direction.

"I'm really glad Martin O'Neill has come in and been able to turn things around."



VOTE NOW IN CLUB AWARDS

» **IT HAS BEEN ANOTHER ROLLER-COASTER SEASON AT THE STADIUM OF LIGHT AND NOW SAFC ARE INVITING YOU, THE FANS, TO VOTE ACROSS VARIOUS CATEGORIES IN THE CLUB'S END OF SEASON AWARDS.**

There's five categories to choose from - Player of the Season, Young Player of the Season, Goal of the Season, Save of the Season and Team Performance of the Season.

safc.com wants your opinion on which player has impressed you most throughout the campaign, which goal made you cheer the loudest and which performance made you clap hardest!

Every season sees goals which are a bit special, and this year is no exception.

From Sebastian Larsson's pinpoint free-kicks to Stephane Sessegnon's show-stoppers, there are 12 goals that have made the shortlist - and just in case you need a reminder, there's a video round-up of each and every nominated strike!

Over in the Save of the Season category, super stoppers Simon Mignolet and Keiren Westwood are slugging it out to win the award for the season's most impressive save.

Both 'keepers have made eye-catching contributions, most notably, Westwood's double-save against Manchester United at Old Trafford and Mignolet's game saver against Everton in the FA Cup at Goodison Park.

If you need a reminder there's also video low-down of the top five saves of the season so you can pick your favourite.

Everyone who votes in the poll will be entered into a draw to present the winners of the Player of the Season and Young Player of the Season awards with their prize.

To have your say, visit www.safc.com/awards12. Voting closes on Friday 4 May.

Now @ safc.com:

- Download an SAFC wallpaper
- Coverage from the club's recent Golf Day
- Tune into the Red and White Show on SAFC TV

Follow us on
Facebook and Twitter

www.twitter.com/safcofficial
www.facebook.com/sunderlandafc



CATS' TALES

ASTON VILLA 0 SUNDERLAND 0, SATURDAY 21ST APRIL 2012.
BARCLAYS PREMIER LEAGUE, VILLA PARK.



» **SEEING A GOOD GOAL CHALKED OFF FOR OFFSIDE WHEN IT IS LATER SHOWN TO BE ONSIDE IS DISAPPOINTING AT THE BEST OF TIMES BUT IN A GAME THAT TOOK SUNDERLAND TO FOUR GAMES WITHOUT SCORING THE TIMING COULDN'T HAVE BEEN MUCH WORSE FOR THE LADS.**

Ironically Nicklas Bendtner's conversion of Seb Larsson's inch perfect cross was the one chance Sunderland took on an afternoon when chances came and went like dates on the Home Secretary's calendar.

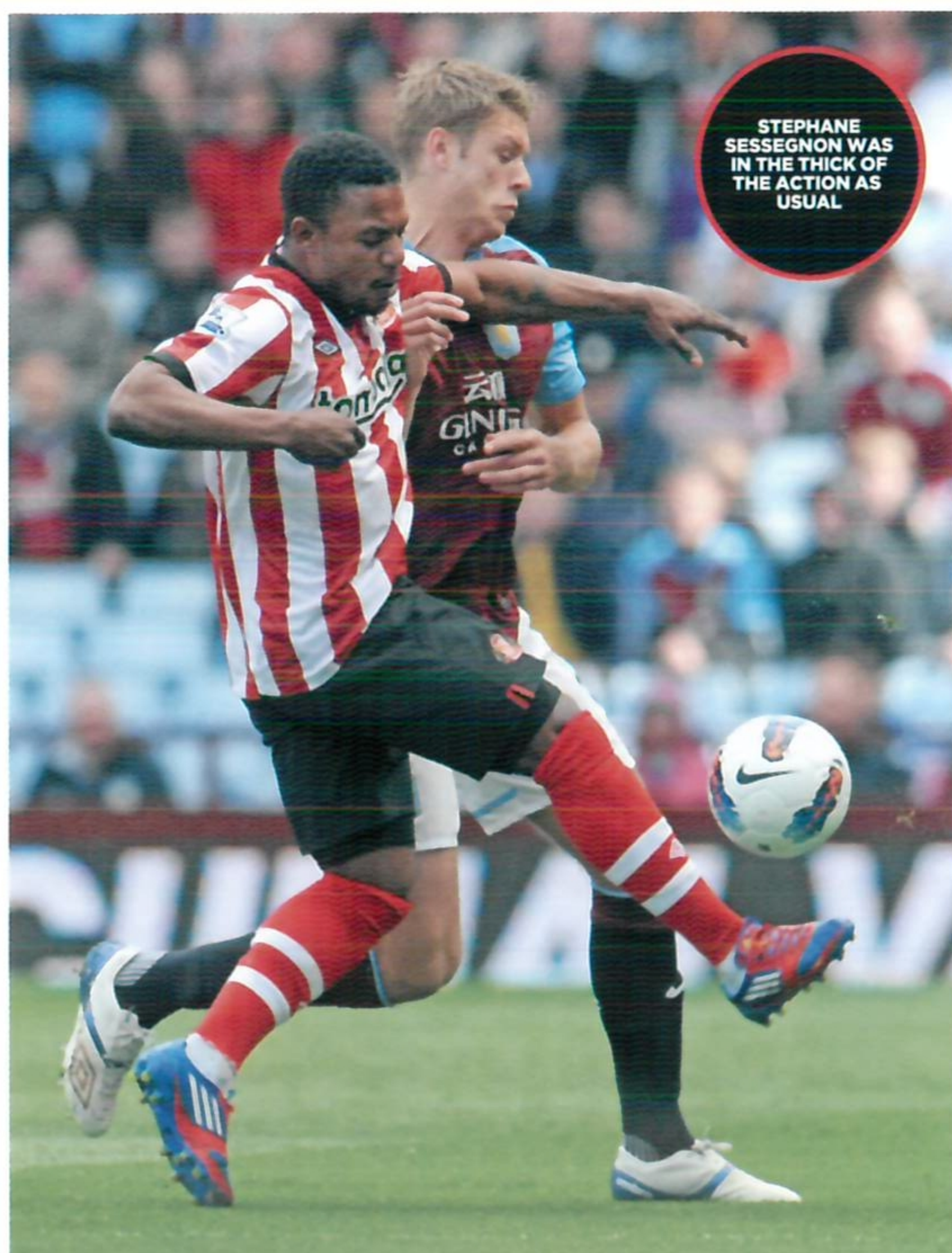
James McClean supplied a stream of inviting crosses from

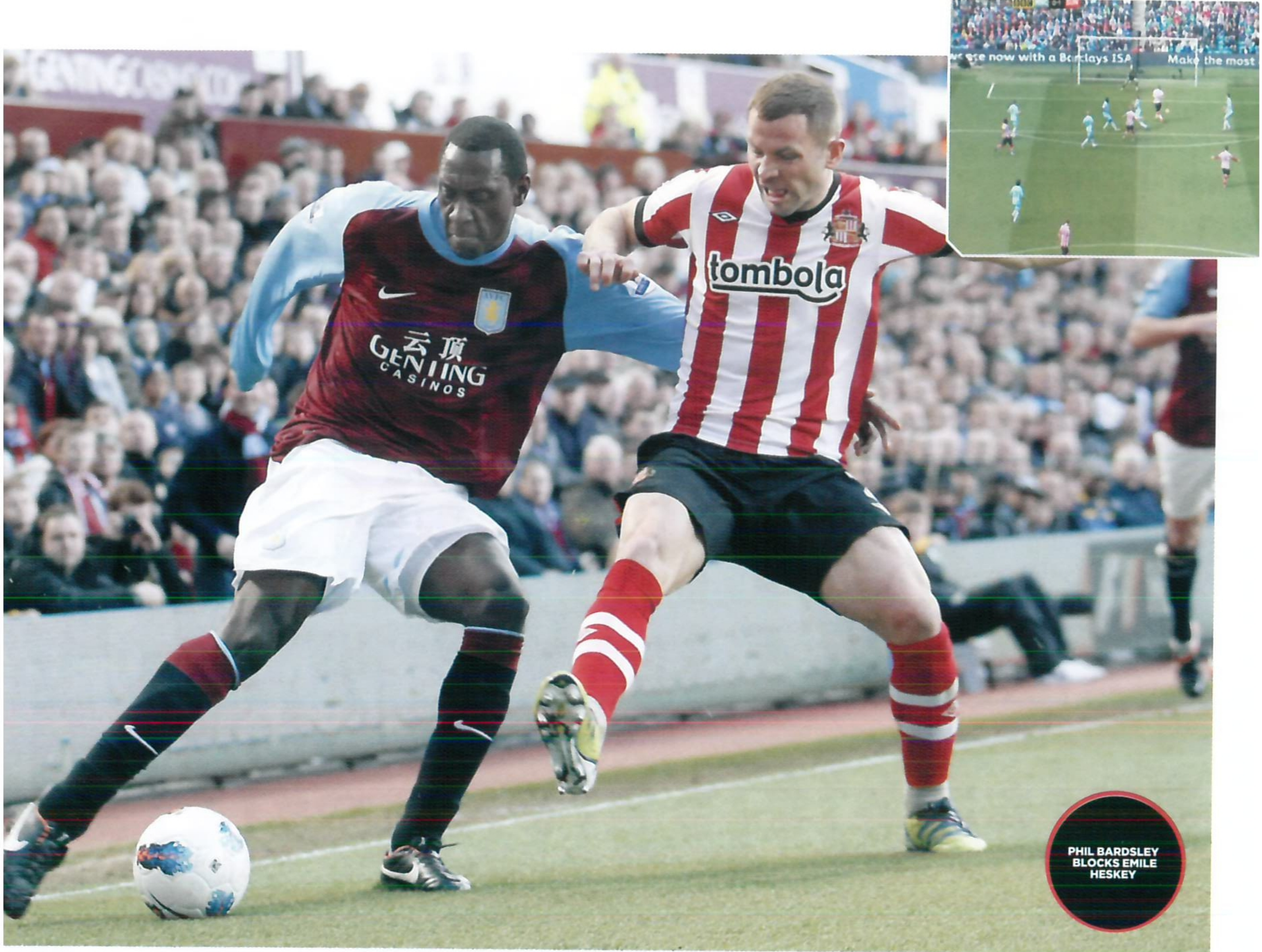
the left and got on the end of a great ball himself only to shoot over after Stephane Sessegnon wriggled free to get round the back. Bendtner beat Given only to see Stephen Ireland hack off the line having earlier cleared the bar with a close range header while Larsson also couldn't quite keep an effort down after a slick move involving Bendtner and McClean.

Villa had their chances too in a game that was open and entertaining despite the lack of goals but Simon Mignolet remained largely untroubled in a game that Sunderland did more than enough to win. 1

» MATCHFACTS

- Simon Mignolet marked his 50th Barclays Premier League appearance with his 19th clean sheet.
- Mignolet's clean sheet percentage is the highest of any goalkeeper with 10 or more top-flight appearances in the last 50 years.
- Not scoring for the fourth successive match means that Sunderland have gone 395 minutes without registering a goal.
- Craig Gardner's sending off means that Sunderland's last five away dismissals have all been at Newcastle or Villa.
- Gardner's red card was Sunderland's fourth of the season but the first outside of the derby fixture.
- Gardner's late dismissal while his brother Gary remained an unused sub for Villa prevented brothers appearing against each other for the first time in a post-war match featuring Villa.
- Gardner, Bardsley and the management team are all former Villa employees, albeit Bardsley as a loan player.
- Former SAFC loannees Alan Hutton and Shay Given played for Villa.
- The 19th minute of the match was marked by applause from all sides for Villa's highly respected, but seriously ill, captain Stilyan Petrov (19 is his squad number). Craig Gardner displayed a message in support of 'Stan' as he left the field.





PHIL BARDSLEY
BLOCKS EMILE
HESKEY



CRAIG
GARDNER WAS
EXCELLENT ON HIS
RETURN TO VILLA
PARK... UNTIL HIS
INJURY TIME
DISMISSAL

New game

tombola™

Britain's biggest bingo site

bingo 60!

Five chances to win in every game with
£20,000 jackpots!

The screenshot shows the bingo60! game interface. At the top, there's a navigation bar with buttons for 'how to play', 'my account', 'sound on', 'history', and a balance of £94.10. The main game area features a 'Game 5214' with a ball number '16' and 'Ball 25 of 60'. Below this is a table of numbers and their corresponding jackpots:

orange	green	red	purple	blue
£55.89	£81.01	£111.79	£149.05	£232.90
JP: £1,000	JP: £2,000	JP: £4,000 In 0	JP: £8,000 In 5	JP: £20,000 In 9

Below the table are four bingo cards: orange, green, red, and blue. The orange card has numbers 14, 20, 24, 32, 42, 60. The green card has numbers 04, 08, 13, 22, 31, 38, 48, 49, 59. The red card has numbers 07, 11, 17, 19, 30, 33, 37, 39, 41, 43, 44, 45. The blue card has numbers 01, 02, 03, 05, 10, 16, 21, 23, 25, 27, 29, 34, 46, 47, 51, 53, 54, 57. A vertical list of numbers from 01 to 60 is on the left. A chat window on the right shows messages from users like CM-dc, holt77, happy, danilo, gemzi, mickllc, my2luc, nannal, williwir, makes, nikkim, rainbo, lizzyjo, tutti fr, flosscl, jen ne, hotcle, luckycl, trinity0, ddebz, finleys, leesae, lizziej8, luckyd, lucky r, megar, kenco, nix_jay, abbiejack01, 271xsarah, jdsb12, cherish2, 68sandra, 271xsarah, gracie-leasmam, xcarinaneverwinsx, paper72, lucielocketspocket, mairs, lorr38, CM-dollybead, luckydolly, 68sandra, mahola.



WITH KEITH CHAPMAN

THE TRAVELLING FAN



ASTON VILLA V SUNDERLAND, BARCLAYS PREMIER LEAGUE, SATURDAY 21ST APRIL 2012, 3PM,
DISTANCE (FROM SUNDERLAND): 198.9 MILES (397.8 MILES ROUND TRIP),
TOTAL MILES COVERED SO FAR THIS SEASON: 4,592.27 MILES (9,184.54 ROUND TRIP).



» **SUNDERLAND'S PENULTIMATE AWAY GAME OF THE SEASON LED US TO MARTIN O'NEILL'S OLD STOMPING GROUND VILLA PARK, A PLACE WHERE HE LED THEM TO THREE TOP SIX FINISHES, TRIPS TO WEMBLEY AND EUROPEAN TOURS.**

Those days must have seemed a world away for those Villa fans who bothered to turn up to see their side against the Lads, with the Midlands still looking over their shoulder at the bottom. O'Neill, as expected, got a mixed reaction from the Villa

support. On the pitch, however, the Lads really should have come away with three points after creating a host of chances throughout an entertaining game.

THE DAY OUT & GETTING THERE

A trip to Villa generally means a journey down the M6. Villa Park is easily visible from the motorway and getting there is around a three and a half hour journey by road. As in previous visits, a lot of our support headed straight to Lichfield for pre-match drinkees.

However, this was also the last Saturday away day of the season, so many of the red and white army were determined to let their hair down and enjoy this one - especially with us being in the comfortable position of mid-table.

VILLA PARK

Sunderland's travelling army were housed in the two tiered Doug Ellis Stand at the side of the pitch. The ridiculously high ticket prices (£40 for adults!) put many off but the 1,600 or so Sunderland supporters certainly made themselves heard and got behind the Lads from start to finish. Villa Park is one of the better grounds in the Barclays Premier League and the view from the upper tier is really good. However, if you go there expecting an intimidating atmosphere then there is more chance of Sunderland fans giving a standing ovation to Darren Bent next time he's on Wearside!

US

With little to play for and the ridiculously high ticket prices it was a massive surprise that so many supporters made the trip down the M6. In the stands, the red and white army gave noisy backing, mainly all directed in the direction of our current manager, who was getting the expected stick from the Villa fans.

THEM

With Villa struggling in the league, it was no surprise that thousands of empty seats were visible throughout the ground. This was a big game for Villa and this reflected the tension in the stands. A point though edges them closer to safety.

COST

Ticket: £40
Travel: £24
Food & Drink: £30
Total: £94

VERDICT

5/10 (A draw and a clean sheet but no cutting edge!)



THE MATT KILGALLON STORY

ROB MASON PUTS MATT KILGALLON IN THE RED AND WHITE SPOTLIGHT.

» AS COMEBACKS GO, MATT KILGALLON RIVALS WIGAN ATHLETIC'S RECENT HEROICS IN FIGHTING BACK FROM WHAT SEEMED AN ALMOST IRRETRIEVABLE POSITION. HAVING NOT PLAYED A SINGLE GAME FOR SUNDERLAND LAST SEASON, THE JANUARY 2010 SIGNING DIDN'T EVEN HAVE A SQUAD NUMBER FOR THE FIRST HALF OF THIS CAMPAIGN.

Given a fresh start by new manager Martin O'Neill, supporters seemed largely unconvinced and when Kilgallon was suddenly needed just 26 minutes into the New Year's Day game with then top of the table Manchester City there was a sense of apprehension in the crowd about how Killa would get on against Nasri, Dzeko and co. Kilgallon's gap between first-team appearances was the longest for an

outfield player since Ben Clark's first two senior appearances in 2000 and 2003, Matt having not been seen in a Sunderland game since May 2010.

Kilgallon rose to the challenge, not putting a foot wrong as a clean sheet was kept in a famous Sunderland win. Fellow sub Ji got the headlines for his late winner but Kilgallon got the place in the starting XI for the next game. Impressing in a big win at Wigan, Matt helped ensure a clean sheet in the first leg of the cup journey at Peterborough and was doing well in what proved to be a 1-0 defeat away to Chelsea when injury forced him off a minute before half-time.

Once fit again Killa warmed the bench for seven games before

being given a place in the starting line up, again Manchester City being his comeback game. Although that game ended in a draw, Sunderland led 3-1 when he had to go off with cramp with nine minutes left, since when he returned to the side and - not forgetting the heavy defeat at Everton - can point to Sunderland keeping three clean sheets in his four appearances since.

With the season on its home straight Matt is ending a campaign that looked like his Sunderland days were over with the prospect of playing himself into the manager's plans. Moreover the Red and White army have seen 'Skillgallon' can be a player who belatedly is getting the opportunity to show what he is capable of.

» EARLY DAYS

Name: Matthew Shaun Kilgallon

Date of birth: January 8th 1984

Birthplace: York

Those who saw Kilgallon recently produce 'The Rabona' at Manchester City and wondered why it was Sunderland's centre-back demonstrating this outrageous trick rather than one of Roberto Mancini's superstars might find some explanation in 'Killa's early days: "I was a left winger or striker then," he laughs. "Once I joined Leeds when I was about 14, because I was tall I got moved further and further back and before I knew it I was playing centre-half."

York-born Matt's exhibition of 'Quality Street' football had a sweet touch. "I used to play for Rowntrees in York. My dad worked there and spotted something on a noticeboard. I started playing when I was about eight until I was around 12."

» THE MATT KILGALLON QUIZ

One of the following pieces of information is made up but which one? Find the answer on page 61.

- 1 Matt has played in two Play-off Finals.
- 2 He is an England Under-21 international.
- 3 He made his Leeds debut at the Stadium of Light.
- 4 He was sent-off in a Sheffield derby.
- 5 He went over 18 months between appearances for Sunderland.

» YOUR TIME NOW

Having not even been part of the first-team squad for the first part of this season, Matt agrees his comeback into the fold has been astonishing: "I totally agree," he says. "I came back having kept myself fit through the summer and tried to catch the eye when I came back. It didn't happen for me though and I was training with the reserves and just trying to stay fit and positive because football is such a funny game. I did that and worked hard and a new manager came in and I found myself back training with the first-team. I trained well, was fit enough and before I knew it I was coming on against Manchester City on Sky. I just said to myself as I was putting my shin pads on 'This is your time now' and I just went on and did as well as I could."

As a senior professional player how tough was it to turn up every day and yet not even have a squad number with no foreseeable prospect of getting a game? "It is hard yes. Particularly when you are wondering why are you not involved. You can't mope around though because if you do that you don't do yourself any favours and things can change. I've learned that as I've got older."

'SKILLGALLON'



CAREER DIARY

2011-12

- Made his 200th league start in the last home game v Wolves.
- Made a fresh start at Sunderland, making first appearance in almost 20 months in New Year's Day win over Manchester City.
- After four games in a fortnight didn't play again until impressing in return with Manchester City a month ago.

2010-11

- Did not play at all for Sunderland but had loans at Middlesbrough and Doncaster.
- Made first of three appearances for Boro in 1-0 win over old club Sheffield United.
- Played a dozen Championship games for Doncaster, the last back at Boro.

2009-10

- Transferred to Sunderland for an undisclosed fee in the January transfer window.
- Made seven SAFC appearances, starting in a 2-0 defeat at Everton.

2008-09

- Lost in Play-off Final for Sheffield United against Burnley.
- Received straight red in Sheffield derby in the first half hour at Hillsbrough.
- Received just three yellow cards in 49 appearances.

2007-08

- Scored winner in South Yorkshire derby for Sheffield United against Barnsley.
- Made 46 appearances in all competitions for The Blades, receiving just one yellow card.

Supporting the grass roots



Football Foundation



■ FUNDING PARTNERS ■

www.footballfoundation.org.uk

improving facilities • creating opportunities • building communities

Charity No 1079309 Company No 3876305



Sunderland AFC

In partnership with Winn Solicitors



Had a Road Traffic Accident? Not Your Fault?

Contact Winn Solicitors FIRST

0800 298 6852



Tel: 0800 298 6852 | Email: solicitors@winnsolicitors.com | www.winnsolicitors.co

» RIGHT MESSAGE

Matt made seven reserve team appearances in the early months of the season, scoring in a win over Wolves. With Sunderland very much making the reserves more of a development side bringing on young up and coming players, games for senior pro's have been rare, but as Matt says playing in the reserves alongside the since departed Nyron Nosworthy ['Nugsy'] was something he tried to make the most of: "Reserve games are hard to play in but you never know who is watching you and that's all I was thinking. You've just got to do it right and the thing is our reserves are a good young team and they made it enjoyable for me and Nugsy. We enjoyed the games and we were doing alright at the top of the league. It's a way to keep yourself fit and try and get up to match sharpness."

» LEEDS

Leeds United now languish in the Championship having dropped out of the top-flight in 2004 but when Matt came to the fore at his first club they were still a power in the land having finished fifth in what was then the Barclaycard Premiership the season before his debut which came in the UEFA Cup. Kilgallon was called upon away to Hapoel Tel Aviv on 14th November 2002. "I remember travelling with the squad thinking it would be a good bit of experience travelling with the first-team as a young player. In the changing room I was thinking there's no way I'll be on the bench because he'd had to leave some big players out to include me as we had a great team. Then the gaffer [Terry Venables] said my name and I was on the bench. I was nervous and Lucas Radebe went down and the Gaffer shouted 'Killa, you're on.' I think it was 1-1 at the time. I went on and I just concentrated on making a good start. I remember it was a throw in and I got up and beat the guy in the air and I just settled then. Five minutes later we scored and then we scored again and eventually won 4-1. I was playing with some players then. People like Mark Viduka, Harry Kewell, Olivier Dacourt,

David Batty, Gary Kelly and so on. It was a great team who made it easy for me."

Three months later a last minute sub appearance marked Matt's Premiership debut against West Ham at Elland Road. He went on to play 95 times for Leeds in all competitions, playing alongside former Sunderland centre-back Paul Butler and under Peter Reid during his

his time at Elland Road. Disastrously relegated under Eddie Gray in 2004, Leeds were in the middle of a season that saw them go into administration and be relegated to League 1 when Matt left in January 2007 to join top-flight Sheffield United. Following a final Leeds appearance which came as a sub against Sunderland at the Stadium of Light on Boxing Day 2006.



2006-07

- Made final Leeds appearance at the Stadium of Light against Sunderland.
- Transferred to top-flight Sheffield United, debuting against Bolton.
- Relegated with The Blades.
- Made first start for England Under-21s in 1-0 win away to the Netherlands, over two years after previous appearance.

2005-06

- Played in Championship Play-off Final as Leeds lost to Watford.
- Made 33 appearances in all competitions, all but three as starts.

2004-05

- Began to establish a regular place at Elland Road, playing 28 times, all as starts.
- Made two further England Under-21 appearances, as sub.
- Sent-off for second yellow card for Leeds away to Brighton.

2003-04

- Started the season on loan to West Ham, playing four times, debuting in a second tier win at Ipswich.
- Returned to Leeds playing nine times including a full debut in a Boxing Day goalless draw with Villa.
- Relegated with Leeds.
- Scored first goal of career, a winner at Southampton.
- Made England Under-21 debut as a sub in Sweden.

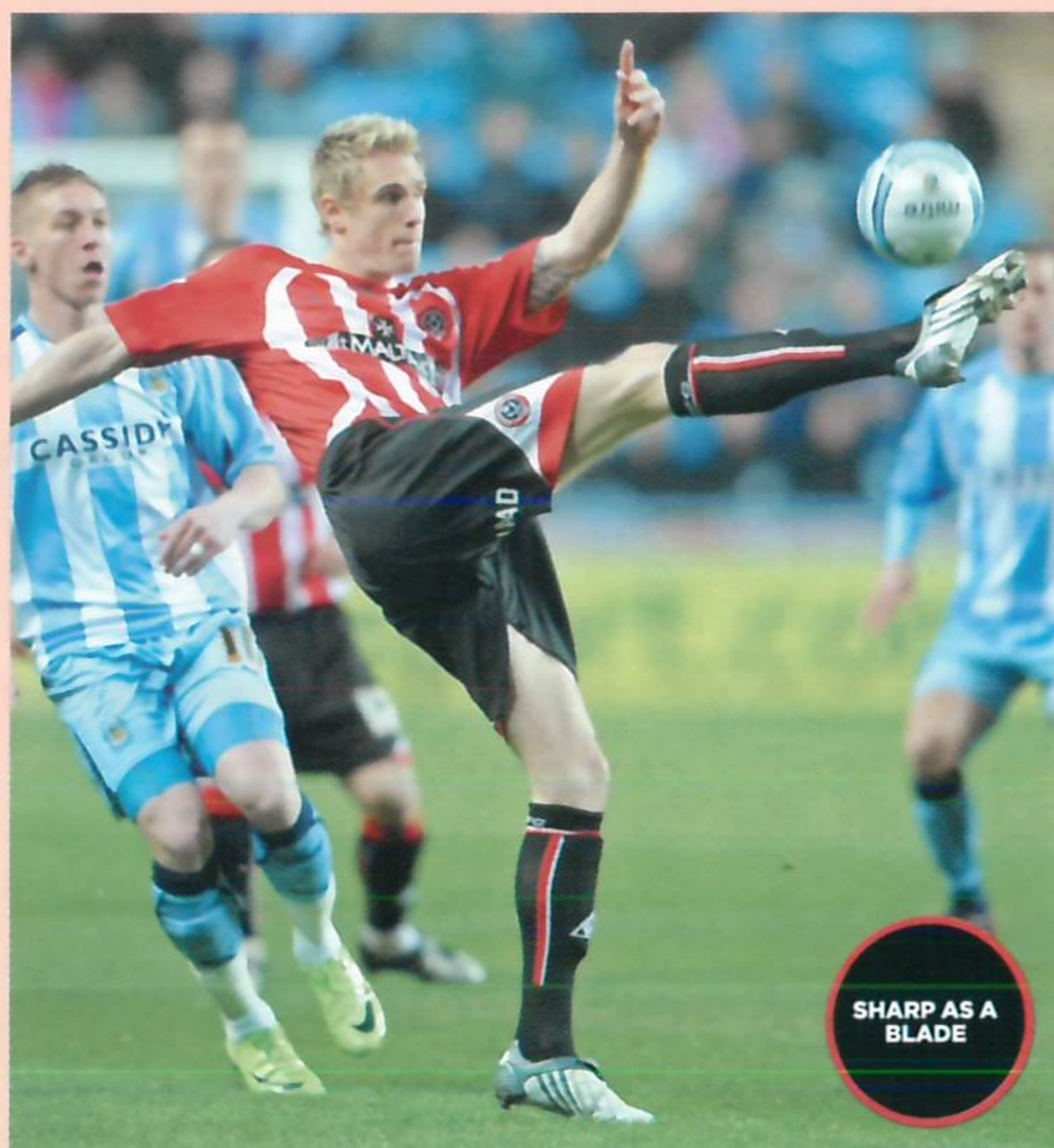
2002-03

- Made debut as a sub for Leeds in the UEFA Cup, in a 4-1 win at Hapoel Tel Aviv in November 2002.
- Made two brief Barclaycard Premiership appearances as sub, the first in February at home to West Ham.

» BLADES

Signed by Neil Warnock for a reported fee of £1.75million, rising to £2million and with a 20 per cent sell on clause, an injury delayed Matt's first appearance for the Blades until the last day of March at the home of today's visitors Bolton. Finishing the season as a regular in red and white, Matt witnessed Sheffield's slide into the Championship in the most controversial circumstances. It was the year when a Carlos Tevez inspired West Ham condemned the Blades to the drop amidst strong speculation that all was not what it should be with regard to his registration.

"We were just thinking 'There's no way West Ham are going to beat Manchester United at Old Trafford, which maybe didn't help us as much. I remember playing against Emile Heskey and it tipping it down. While our game was on we were listening for a cheer from our crowd signalling that Manchester United had scored. It had to be Tevez didn't it? It was wrong and Sheffield United eventually got compensation for it but the players still suffered and it was another gutting day. We went down on goal difference in the end."



» LOANS

Out of the picture at Sunderland last season Matt had loans at Middlesbrough and Doncaster. Previously he had gone on loan from Leeds to West Ham as a teenager. Having made his League debut against West Ham as a sub, he then made his full League debut for Alan Pardew as a Hammer at Ipswich in August 2003. He made two further First Division appearances as a sub, and played the full game in a League Cup tie at Spurs that went to extra-time. While West Ham was about gaining experience, last season's

loans were born out of frustration: "The main thing was for me to get games. With hindsight I shouldn't have gone to Middlesbrough because I wasn't right but I just wanted to get out and play because I didn't want to sit and mope around especially when I thought I wasn't wanted. With 'Donny' my head was down a bit. I didn't want to move again and my missus was pregnant at the time. Maybe some decisions I jumped into last season but you do that when your head's down a bit. At least I was trying and I was training. I've trained every day this season and I'm obviously pleased with that."

» BAD SUMMERS

"I've not had many good summers to be honest," rues Matt with a wry smile. In addition to the controversial 2007 relegation with Sheffield United adding to the drop with Leeds three years earlier, Kilgallon also suffered Play-off Final defeat with Sheffield United in 2009 - losing 1-0 to Burnley at Wembley - and in 2006 with Leeds - losing 3-0 to Watford at Cardiff's Millennium Stadium - oddly enough having defeated Preston in both years' semi-finals.

"They were both devastating days," he says of the finals. "It's such a long season, especially in the Championship when there seem to be games every Tuesday as well as Saturday. To reach the final and not win means that all you are thinking about on your holidays is going back to the Championship when you've been within touching distance of promotion. You can't believe it and I had it twice."



DISCIPLINE

Kilgallon has not been shown a yellow card in his last 37 appearances, a creditable achievement for a defender. Indeed since being sent-off for Leeds against Leicester in October 2006, Kilgallon has played 155 games, been sent off once (In the Sheffield derby, the third red of his career) and collected a meagre five yellow cards. Last week's game with Villa was Matt's 253rd game of his career for club and country with a total of just 18 yellow cards shown to him in that time. "Don't show the Gaffer that, he'll think I'm soft," Matt laughs. "I try and defend by staying on my feet and while you can always pick up a card I don't tend to get many for a defender."

TROPHY CABINET

Five England Under-21 caps England Schoolboy international

Matt's fifth and last England Under-21 appearance was in a 1-0 win away to the Netherlands in November 2006 (four years to the day after his Leeds debut). He also played against Ukraine, Poland and Azerbaijan in the autumn of 2004, having debuted away to Sweden in March of that year. "We had some good players in the Under-21s and it was very professional," says Matt of his international experience while explaining how his international career was delayed in his schooldays: "I was supposed to play in the Victory Shield when I was about 15. I was in the squad but I did my knee. I don't even think it was when I was playing football, but I never wanted to tell anyone so I turned up to all the training sessions pretending my knee was fine but it turned out that I'd actually done the cartilage. I missed all of the Victory Shield but eventually got my first game at junior levels against Holland."

MATT PLAYED FIVE TIMES FOR ENGLAND AT UNDER-21 LEVEL



GAMES V BOLTON

5/1/08 Bolton 0-1 Sheffield Utd FA Cup Rd 3
31/3/07 Bolton 1-0 Sheffield Utd. Blades debut

GAMES V SUNDERLAND

26/12/06 Sunderland 2-0 Leeds. Last Leeds app.
On as 72nd m sub
13/9/06 Leeds 0-3 Sunderland (Roy Keane's second game as Sunderland manager)
26/12/04 Sunderland 2-3 Leeds

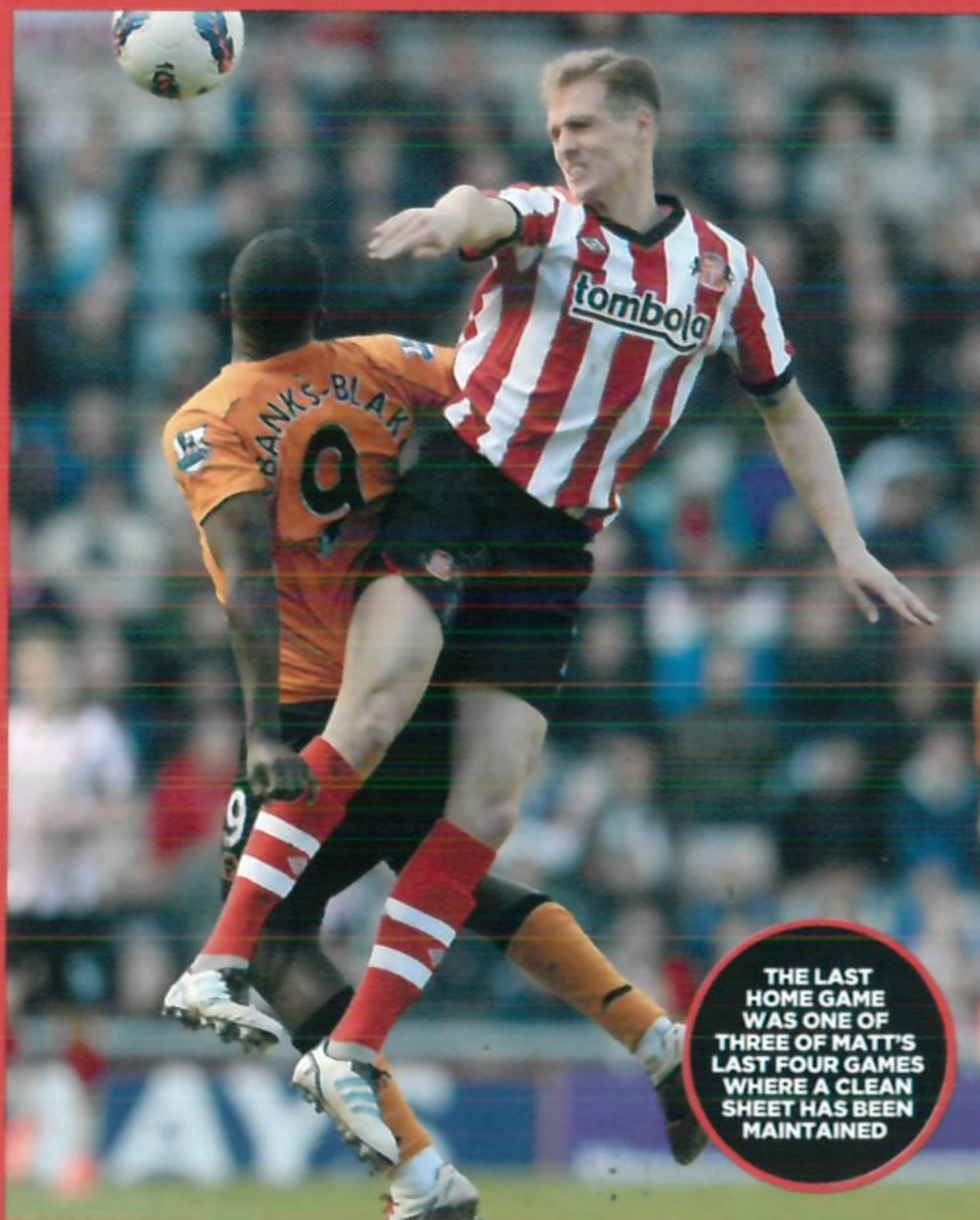
CAPABLE

The last home game took Matt past his previous tally of games for Sunderland (eight this season, now nine, rather than seven in the season he came)

- and was also his 200th league start, so after the slowest of starts does he feel as if he is just starting to show supporters what he is capable of? "It has been hard because you see people writing 'He's sat here on his money and getting this and that so get him out. You just think, 'I wish I was given a chance to show the fans I'm actually a good player and not the sort of guy who is happy to sit here and do nothing'. I want to play and I hope the fans are starting to think that I am good enough and that I can be a good player for Sunderland."

As far as deep ends go, 'Killa' has certainly had to jump off the high board as having Manchester City twice, Chelsea, Spurs and Everton as five of his first six League games this season was a demanding introduction: "Playing against such great players brings the best out of you. I'm pleased that the fans and the Gaffer have seen that I can do it against the top teams. It's not only the lower teams I've played against, I've played mainly against the bigger teams and I've had great help along the way from the rest of the defence and the rest of the team.

"We've got some great centre halves here and when you do have the shirt it's up to you to keep it. Hopefully I am in the Gaffer's plans because I think there is a good team getting built here. I don't know what he's going to do in the summer but he is one of those bosses who clearly has the ability to attract people."



THE LAST HOME GAME WAS ONE OF THREE OF MATT'S LAST FOUR GAMES WHERE A CLEAN SHEET HAS BEEN MAINTAINED

No 3 is incorrect, he made his last appearance for Leeds at Sunderland, not his first.

THE MATT KILGALLON QUIZ(SEE PAGE 56).



SJM CONCERTS & METROPOLIS MUSIC BY ARRANGEMENT WITH X-RAY PRESENT

COLDPLAY

THURSDAY 7 JUNE
STADIUM OF LIGHT
SUNDERLAND

HOSPITALITY PACKAGES AVAILABLE FROM
0871 911 1555 | SAFCCONCERTS.COM | COLDPLAY@SAFC.COM

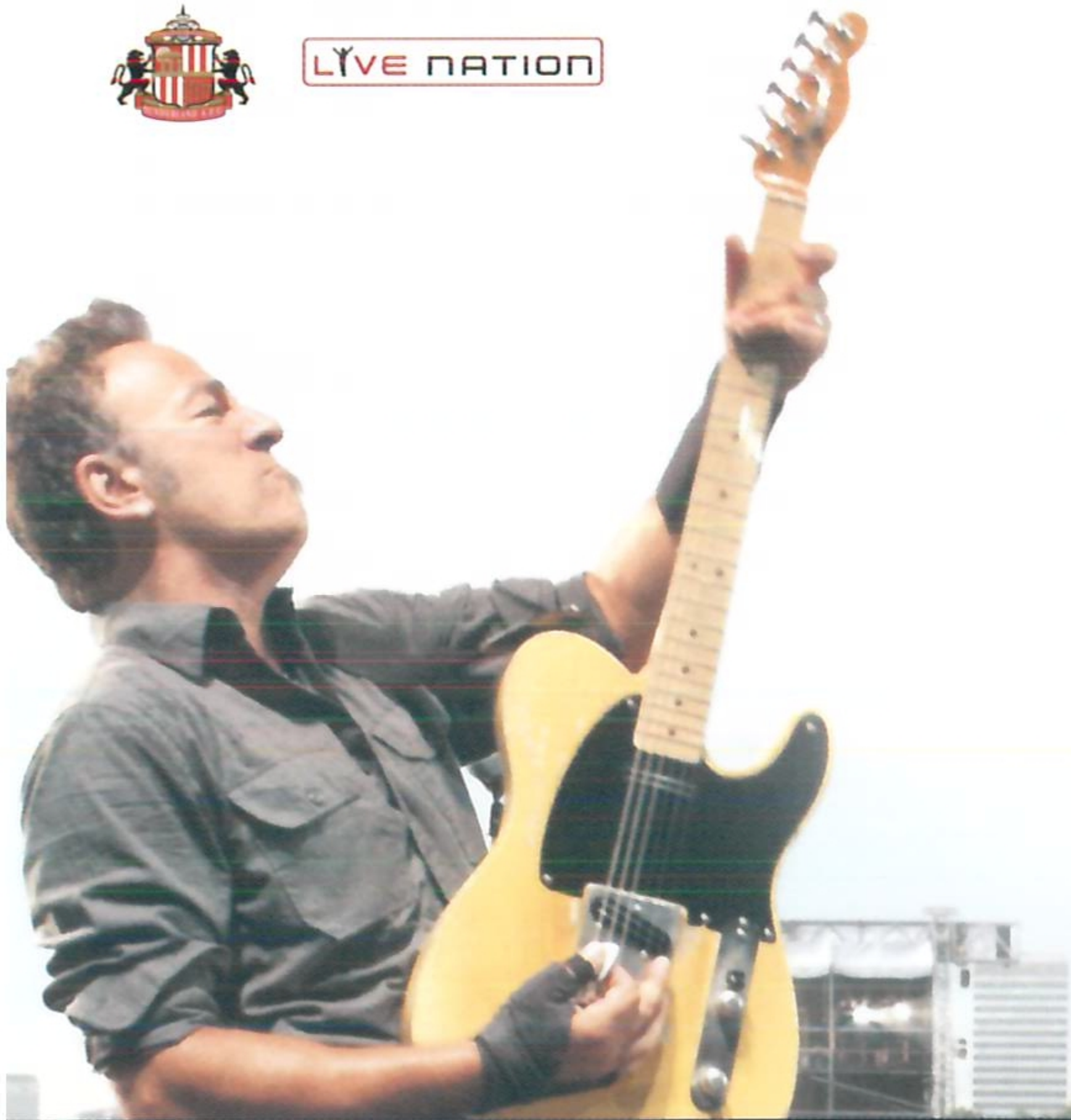
OFFICIAL OVERNIGHT PACKAGES FROM
MILLENIUM CONCERT TRAVEL MCT-ONLINE.CO.UK 01253 895 555



WWW.COLDPLAY.COM



LIVE NATION



BRUCE SPRINGSTEEN & THE E STREET BAND

SUNDERLAND
STADIUM OF LIGHT
THURSDAY 21ST JUNE 2012

BUY ONLINE AT LIVENATION.CO.UK

A LIVE NATION PRESENTATION

WWW.BRUCESPRINGSTEEN.NET

HOSPITALITY PACKAGES AVAILABLE FROM £140 PER PERSON
CALL 0871 911 1555 OR E-MAIL BSPRINGSTEEN@SAFC.COM

RED HOT CHILI PEPPERS

SUNDAY 24 JUNE 2012

STADIUM OF LIGHT SUNDERLAND

TICKETS AVAILABLE FROM: 0844 871 8803 | 0871 989 1601 | KILILIVE.COM/RHCP
SEETICKETS.COM | TICKETMASTER.COM AND USUAL AGENTS

FOR HOSPITALITY AND HOTEL PACKAGES:
T: 0871 911 1555 | W: WWW.SAFCCONCERTS.COM | E: RHCP@SAFC.COM
STANDARD TICKETS ALSO AVAILABLE FROM VENUE BOX OFFICE IN PERSON
FOR ALL EVENT TRAVEL AND INFORMATION GO TO WWW.KILILIVE.COM/RHCP



UP FOR THE CUP

SUNDAY CUP FINAL HERE TOMORROW

ANDREW SMITHSON PREVIEWS HETTON LYONS' BIG DAY.

» TODAY OF COURSE WILL ALL BE ABOUT THE THREE IMPORTANT BARCLAYS PREMIER LEAGUE POINTS ON OFFER BUT TOMORROW WILL SEE SILVERWARE UP FOR GRABS INSTEAD AS THE STADIUM OF LIGHT HOSTS THE FA CARLSBERG SUNDAY CUP FINAL FOR THE FIRST TIME.

Local heavyweights Hetton Lyons have once again made the final after knocking out holders Oyster Martyrs in the semi-final and they now face another Liverpool and District side in Canada FC as they look to win the competition for the fourth time.

Stu Gooden's side won the Durham and District Sunday League Premier Division last week with five games to spare and as the manager explains, they go into the match in form "the league, County Cup and this were our three main priorities at the start of the season. We got

beat in the semi-final of the County Cup and that has been our only defeat. We've won the league but the Sunday Cup is probably the biggest of them all."

"I took sole charge this season and brought 15 new players in because we needed a change, so it has been a fantastic achievement so far. People want to come and play for the Lyons but it still takes some doing to come in and gel, and they have all worked hard for each other. Normally we just add one or two new players but this year we lost a few to retirement and things needed a new start so this is kind of the 'new Lyons'.

"I hope we get a massive support from everybody in North East Sunday football and we are looking for a big crowd to hopefully help us get the win."

Club Secretary Wayne Kendall is also gearing

up for the game and he too is hoping for a bumper crowd. "We've got everything sorted and everybody is now looking forward to it.

"When we initially started the club we used local boys and as we grew we started to attract better players and we have a really good standard of players within the club now, the majority of which also play in the Northern League. The majority of the team actually support Sunderland and there are a couple of lads that were actually on the books at the Academy when they were younger; the two Irish lads Stephen Capper and Keith Graydon.

"We don't tend to do that much homework on the other sides because it can be quite difficult. What we do know is that Canada have already beaten the side we played in the semi-final three times this season so they are obviously going to be

very strong. You always get a good quality side from Liverpool.

"We're quite attractive to watch too because we like to pass the ball around and get ourselves into good positions. We're not a kick and hope team, we move the ball well and create openings and hopefully people can put them away at the end of it.

"I think the game being at the Stadium of Light is a positive thing. We have had to travel down to Liverpool to do it the three previous times we have won the competition but this time it is on our own doorstep so we are expecting a good crowd and hope some local people can give us a boost."

The game kicks-off at 4pm. Turnstiles are open from 2pm and admission on the day is £5 for adults, £1 for under-16s and OAPs. A 32-page programme will be on sale for £1. 1



THE HETTON LYONS TEAM THAT PLAYED OYSTER IN THE SEMI-FINAL LAST MONTH

RED AND WHITE ARMY

WEAR YOUR COLOURS AND SHOW YOUR PRIDE.

DUBLIN CYCLE RIDE

Next Saturday morning Sunderland Former Players' Association Chairman Nick Sharkey will be at the Stadium of Light to welcome Fergus Dowd who is leading a party of 16 cyclists who are travelling from Dublin to the north east to raise money for the 'Scott Bell Fund' and awareness of Motor Neurone Disease.

The group will be taking part in a charity match at Blyth Spartans as part of their trip. We wish them well. Nick will be presenting Fergus with a shirt signed by 15 players including: Charlie Hurley, Stan Anderson, George Herd, several of the 73 Cup team and of course himself.

HAWES SUMMER GET TOGETHER

The annual get together of the Red and White army in Hawes is becoming something of a summer tradition. This year the

Red and White jamboree takes place on Friday and Saturday June 22nd and 23rd. Sunderland fan Trev Sharples is hoping for a red and white team capable of winning this year's tug-o-war and he says: "If you like talking nonsense about Sunderland and like a pint, this is the weekend for you." For further details Trevor Sharples can be contacted on 07792159384, sharpstrev@aol.com and he recommends for places to stay in Hawes have a look on www.wensleydale.org

MESSAGES

Happy birthday to **Jacob** who was eight on Wednesday. Pictured here



at the last home game v Wolves, Jacob has travelled to the match again today from Leeds with his mum, dad and brother Tom.



Happy Birthday to **Bradley** who will be 10-years-old on May 5th. Best wishes from Mam, Dad, Harvey, nan, grandad, grandma and grandad. Brad's favourite players are Stephane Sessegnon, Fraizer Campbell and Craig Gordon.

A very happy 11th birthday to season card holder **Adam** for 19th April. Love from Mam and Dad, Daniel and Hannah.



Happy 16th birthday to **Jacob** at the game today. Enjoy the match love from nana, grandda and all the family.

Welcome to **Brian 'Briz' Cargill** in the Sportsbar with 18 of his mates today for his Stag weekend. Congratulations on his marriage to Teresa on 16th June 2012.

Happy Birthday to **Lewis** who is 17 today. He is a season card holder in the South East corner and has



been following the lads since he was five. Love from Dad and all the family.



Otts, James and Neil wish **Stu Mackenzie** a happy 32nd birthday today.



Happy 50th birthday to **Gavin Lamb**. Have a great day. Love from all your family and friends.



Happy 50th birthday to **Anthony Cartwright** in the Riverview Brasserie today love from Yvonne and all your family.

Congratulations to **Philip Milburn and Natalie Stubbs** on your wedding. Enjoy your special day love from all your family and friends.



IN MEMORY - KEN TURNBULL

A devoted Sunderland fan since the 1930s, Ken Turnbull - originally from Haswell, a former South Hetton pitman who settled in Whickham and became engineering director of Durham Chemicals in Birtley - died last week at the age of 86. He had deeply treasured memories of seeing Sunderland win the FA Cup at Wembley in 1973 and of his equally-beloved Durham lifting the Friends Provident Trophy at Lord's in 2007. "Raich Carter was my Dad's idol and his first game at Roker Park was a 4-1 win against Brentford in September 1936," said Simon Turnbull, the youngest of Ken's five children, a sportswriter with The Independent newspaper. "The FA Cup run in 1973 meant the world to both of us. Please thank Bobby Kerr, Jimmy Monty and the boys for bringing such everlasting joy."





YOUR SHOUT

The Sunderland Supporters' Association hold their Player and Young Player of the Year awards night at the Stadium of Light this coming Monday and voting is also underway for the club's official awards (See page 51) so what better time to think about who is your Player of the Year? **"Who would your Sunderland Player of the Season be and why?"**



NICK BREEN

Age: 27
From: Chester-le-Street
Where do you sit in the Stadium of Light: North Stand

"Simply one man has been head and shoulders above the rest this season and that is Stephane Sessegnon. The little pocket rocket has been a threat in every game that he has played in and has given me several exciting moments this year."



RYAN SHEEHAN

Age: 23
From: Sunderland
Where do you sit in the Stadium: East Stand

"It is always satisfying seeing youngsters come through the ranks, and this season the form of young Jack Colback has been terrific. Whether it is at left-back or in midfield, Jack has always looked assured and looks to have a bright future on Wearside."



GAVIN NELLIST

Age: 25
From: Jarrow

"James McClean because of his impact since he came into the squad, his ability to take on top Barclays Premier League players with no fear, his influence in the team has been class and his potential is massive."



ASHTON

Age: Five
From: New Brancebeth, County Durham.
Where do you sit in the Stadium: Season ticket holder in North West Upper.

"My Player of the Season is Stephane Sessegnon because he has scored a lot of good goals."

BE IN RED AND WHITE Send your requests to be in Red and White to: Red and White, Stadium of Light, Sunderland SR5 1SU or email redandwhite@safc.com. If emailing please clearly put the game you'd like your item to appear in and nature of your request in the subject box. Please note photographs of youngsters will only be accompanied by their first name in line with SAFC's Safeguarding policy regarding young people. Photo's can be accepted by email but must be jpgs and of at least one meg please otherwise we may not be able to use them.

FAN'S VIEW

CARTER'S CRAIC

» SO HERE WE ARE. ANOTHER COUPLE OF WEEKS AND IT WILL ALL BE OVER. I DON'T KNOW ABOUT YOU BUT I THINK THIS HAS BEEN A LONG SEASON SO I'M LOOKING FORWARD TO GETTING THE OLD KNOTTED HANKY, BUCKET, SPADE AND SPEEDOS OUT AND HEADING FOR SUNNY CLIMES. YES MY FRIENDS, SEABURN HERE I COME.

That's not to say I won't enjoy the next three games especially as we could well play a major role in a finale which still offers more twists and turns than your average bobsleigh run. No, it's more a case of me reaching the "footballed out" stage much earlier than normal and I think it's due to the combined effect of us sitting

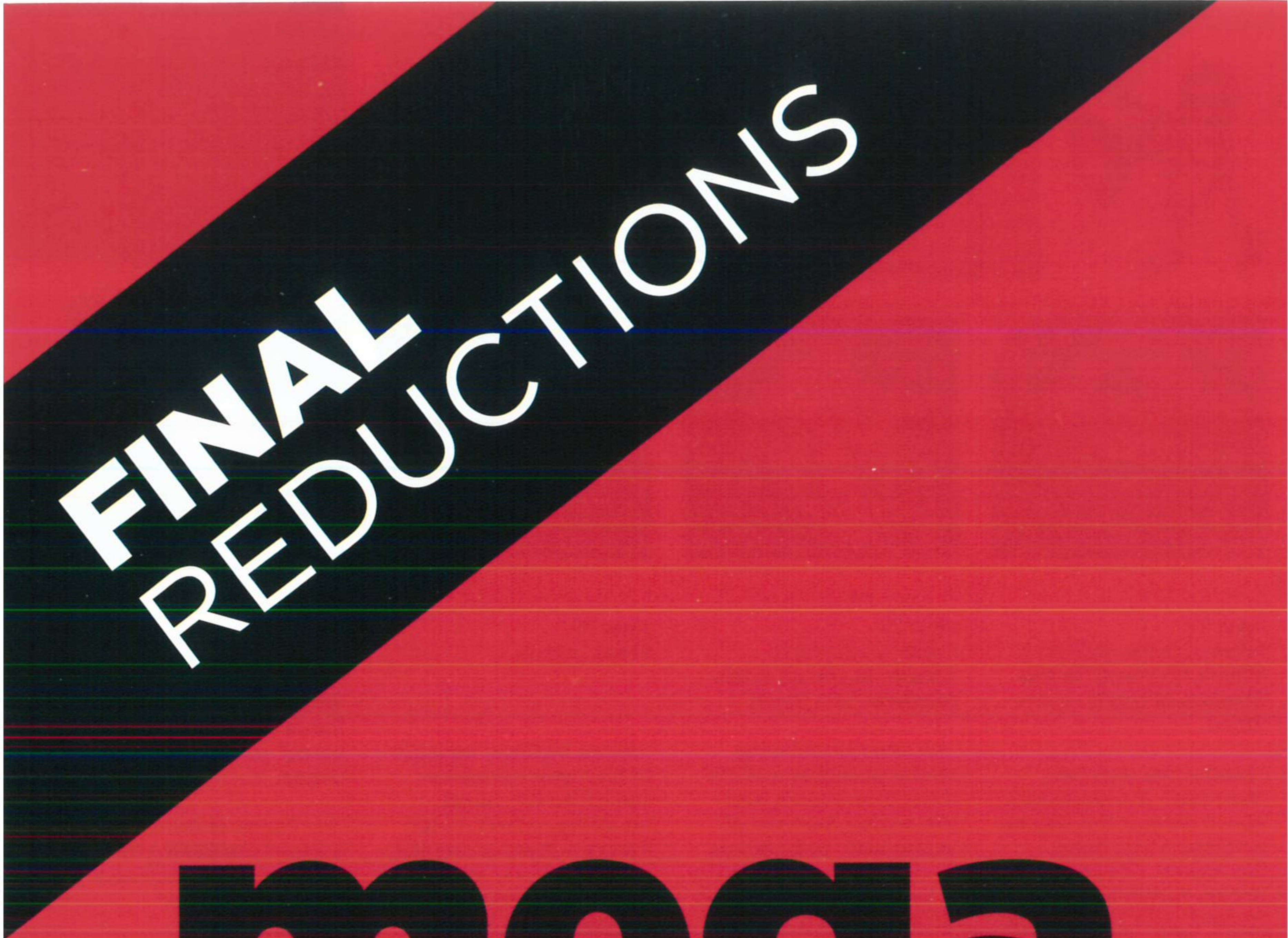


comfortably in the table and my fingernails being fully intact. Not really the Sunderland way is it?

Bolton are our visitors today and they'll be hoping the season doesn't end with them falling through the Barclays Premier League trapdoor along with another famous old club Wolves. The Trotters really have had a miserable season off the field and the tragic loss of Gary Speed, together with Fabrice Muamba's recent scare, would test the mettle of any club. Unfortunately things haven't been too brilliant on the pitch either so they have to win today which should make the game a more open affair and will probably suit our needs more than theirs.

The problem we have of course is that our goals seem to have gone from classic to Jurassic recently and even when we did score it was chalked off quicker than Ronnie O'Sullivan's cue which was frustrating for all concerned. The good thing is that we are still creating chances so maybe we'll have a change in fortune today and I don't care who, when or how it happens. Enjoy everybody.

The views expressed in this column are not necessarily those of Sunderland A.F.C



**FINAL
REDUCTIONS**

mega sale

AT OFFICIAL SAFC STORES

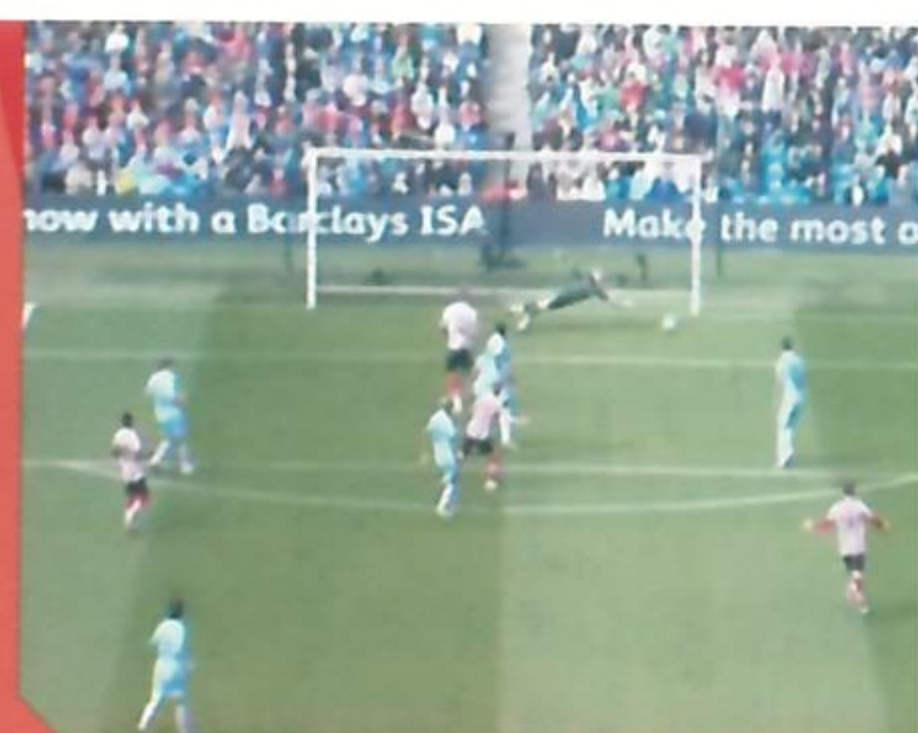
up to 75% off



Now on at: Stadium of Light • Debenhams – Sunderland
The Galleries – Washington • Online at **www.safc.com**
or mail order **0871 911 1973**

junior black cats

THE OFFICIAL SAFC JUNIOR SUPPORTERS' CLUB



Hey Junior Black Cats,

Welcome to the Stadium of Light for today's game,
Sunderland AFC v Bolton Wanderers!

Let's hope that the Black Cats can get three points today
because I know that all you super supporters will be singing
as loud as you possibly can throughout the 90 minutes! I'll be
around before kick-off near the tunnel so come and say hi!



team

My day at the Stadium of Light.

Today the score was

Sunderland ● V Bolton ●

I went to the game with:

The goalscorers were:

My favourite song today was:

I got autographs from:



Delilah says...did you know?

Did you know that Bolton's mascot
Lofty the Lion is named after
one of their greatest players Nat
Lofthouse who played for England?
I'll give Lofty a huge welcome today!

Samson's Super Stickers

This week you can get your paws on
four stickers. Check out these stickers
in the programme to see if your
favourite player is in this week!

This week's stickers are:

COMPETITION WINNER:

Bethany from Durham

DAVID MEYLER: He said he would like to be
a maths teacher if he didn't play football!

RYAN NOBLE: He is on loan at Hartlepool.

CRAIG GARDNER: Did you know he
played for Martin O'Neill at Aston Villa?

Today's Junior Black Cats mascot is...

Kyle aged 11 from Seaham.

His favourite players are Frazier Campbell,
Stephane Sessegnon and James McClean. Kyle
enjoys playing football, cricket and golf!



There is just one more home game
remaining this season so I hope that you can
all make to come and see me before the
summer. I hope to see you all again soon.

Bye for now. Your friend Samson



*Sticker albums were given away free with the programme for the Chelsea game in
September. If you have not got one you can get yours by sending a cheque for £3
to: Chelsea programme, Black Cat House, Sunderland, SR5 1SU or ordering on safc.com

www.safc.com/juniorblackcats

Me and my Daddy at the match



Where Memories Are Made...

The **New Family Zone** at the SOL

BUY YOUR FAMILY ZONE SEASON CARD NOW

ADULT AND JUNIOR SEASON CARD PACKAGE - £499

Me & My Daddy
Grace, Age 8

SAFC.COM | **0871 911 1973** | **SOL** TICKET OFFICE

WISE MEN SAY



THE VIEWS EXPRESSED IN THIS COLUMN ARE NOT NECESSARILY THOSE OF SUNDERLAND A.F.C.

THAT FICKLE FINGER OF FOOTBALLING FATE

» ROBERTO DI MATTEO HAD NO DOUBTS CHELSEA WERE HEADING FOR THE EUROPEAN CHAMPIONS LEAGUE FINAL. THE LONDONERS' INTERIM MANAGER, JUST 48 HOURS BEFORE THE NOU CAMP SECOND LEG SHOWDOWN, SAID AS MUCH TO THE AMUSEMENT OF A SAGACIOUS COMMENTARIAT, POINTING TO BARCELONA'S 75 PER CENT BALL POSSESSION AT STAMFORD BRIDGE, A STRING OF GOAL OPPORTUNITIES, AND OF COURSE LIONEL MESSI.

Matty from the Travs Sporting Brains Trust was with Roberto. In fact, he's the dead spit for Chelsea's redeemer, though as yet has not been seen sporting a boot lace tie.

Nursing a first pint ten minutes before kick-off, perched on his customary lofty bar stool he proclaimed, "it's in the stars".

Then like a latterday John Calvin he preached the gospel of predestination. Though this homily was not about poor punters having no say in whether they were to be saved or damned.

Barcelona, like Warmington-on-Sea, according to Private Fraser, were doomed. Whatever happened in the forthcoming 90 minutes, the Catalans had as much chance of winning, as, Matty remarked, "wor lass winning Miss World".



Apparently England's 1966 World Cup was just meant to happen; it was not Monty, but some unseen hand, probably the grand designer in the sky who pulled off that miraculous double save in 1973; Liverpool's Istanbul second-half comeback owed little to Gerrard, Smicer and Jerzy Dudek and more to celestial lunar movements in the age of Aquarius; Michael Thomas's breathtaking added time title winner for Arsenal at Anfield in May 1989 was pre-ordained, otherwise why was the match re-arranged and shown on live television?

Matty rested his case, and not a slight flicker of concern crossed his face as Barca took a 2-0 lead with precise finishes either side of John Terry's dismissal.

While others reckoned the Chelsea skipper a "right cracker", Matty simply said Terry had probably sat in the wrong seat on the way to the

ground, or listened to a different CD.

Calvin's disciple gave a knowing look when the deft dink from Ramires hauled Chelsea level on aggregate and gave them a priceless away goal. Matty then announced to bar room guffaws, "Torres will probably net the winner".

And it came to pass.

The contented prophet in a mist of Pedigree calm, observed with benign indifference Messi's penalty miss, his later precise goalpost hit and the disallowed offside strike.

When Torres rounded Valdes in the last minute, Matty was being asked to shout out the next lottery winning numbers.

The disgruntled, many self proclaimed 'cockney haters' reckoned the result a travesty. Stats probably supported that view. Xavi in the Nou Camp completed more successful passes than the entire Chelsea team, for whom Petr Cech was

their second most prolific provider. Barcelona enjoyed 88 per cent of second-half possession in the second leg, and over the two games had the ball for 145 of the 180 minutes.

So much for facts. As yet Prozone does not decide results, though some, Sam Allardyce included, might well argue a statistical weighting is used in the final determination of league placings. Apparently West Ham have far higher ball retention/ territorial advantage/ shots on target coefficient than Southampton.

No, glorious unpredictability still plays its part, even though Matty would argue that on occasions an outcome is simply down to fate.

Perhaps Chelsea players had certain pre-match rituals. In 1966 Bobby Moore would always be the last player to put on his shorts. When Shay Given kept 12 clean sheets in 17 on loan outings for The Lads in 1996 and helped them clinch a first promotion to the promised land, he always dropped a vial of holy water in the goal net.

But our bar room philosopher concluded rather than superstition, Chelsea's success was preordained. Just like Raul Meireles's yellow card was always going to happen.

Great player the Portuguese midfielder may be, but should the Champions League Final have one of its players sporting such a scruffy haircut?

Clearly not in the opinion of the omniscient grand designer. ①

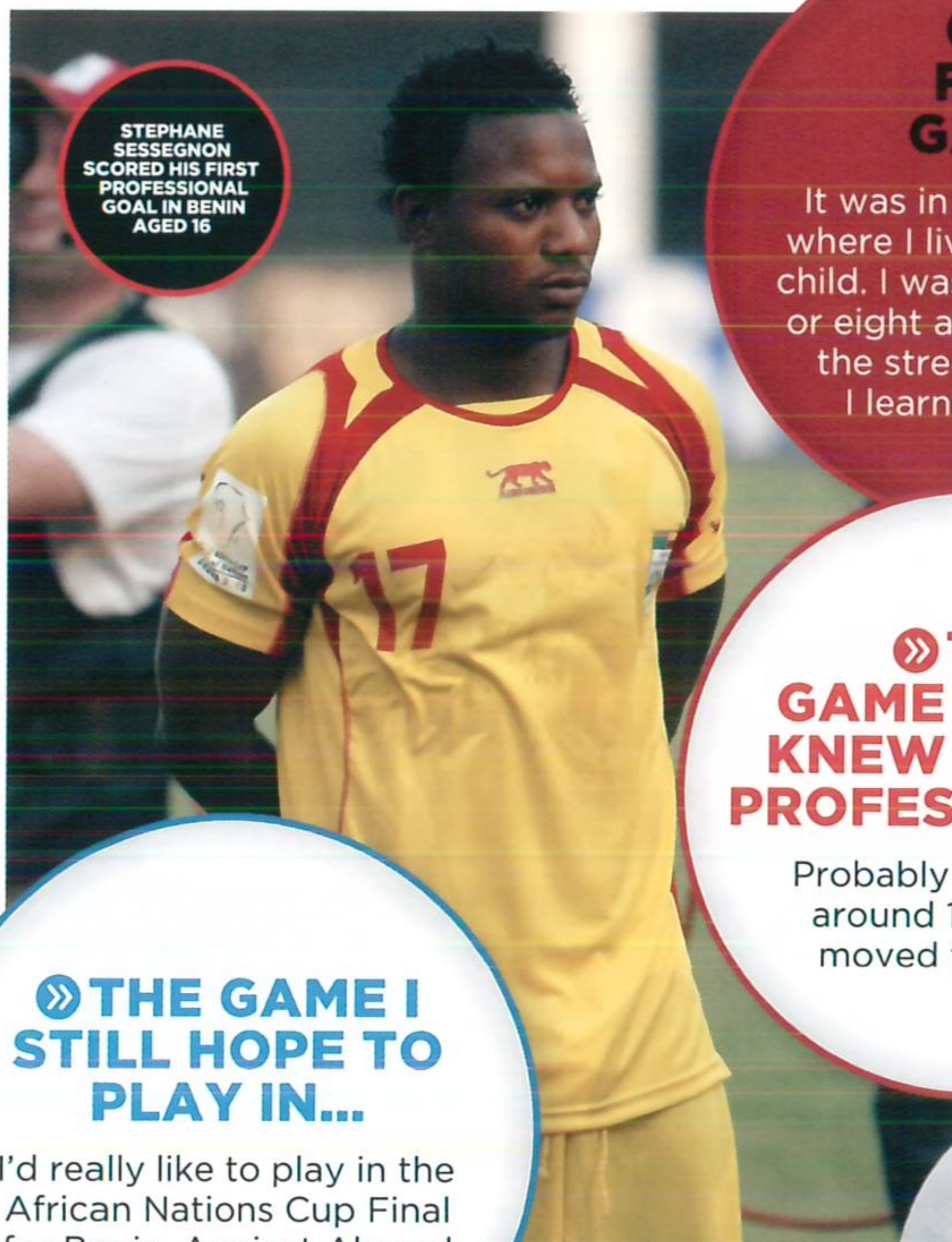


HIGH FIVE WITH...

STÉPHANE SESSÈGNON



STÉPHANE SESSÈGNON REVEALS SOME OF HIS CAREER HIGH SPOTS.



STEPHANE SESSÈGNON SCORED HIS FIRST PROFESSIONAL GOAL IN BENIN AGED 16

» MY FIRST GAME...

It was in the Ivory Coast where I lived when I was a child. I was probably seven or eight and just played in the street with friends. I learned a lot from that.

» THE MOST MEMORABLE GAME OF MY CAREER...

It would have to be the first time I played for my national team. It was against Cameroon in 2004.

» THE GAME WHEN I KNEW I'D BE A PROFESSIONAL...

Probably when I was around 19 and had moved to France.

» THE GAME I STILL HOPE TO PLAY IN...

I'd really like to play in the African Nations Cup Final for Benin. Against Ahmed Elmohamady!

» THE GAME I SCORED MY FIRST GOAL...

I scored lots on the street. I used to watch the Premier League on TV and you would copy things you had seen. My first professional goal was when I was 16 playing in Benin.



ZAMBIA'S CAPTAIN CHRISTOPHER KATONGO CELEBRATES WINNING THE 2012 AFRICAN CUP OF NATIONS TOURNAMENT, A FEAT SESSÈGNON WOULD LOVE TO ACHIEVE WITH BENIN

Ladbrokes

20% FIRST GOALSCORER BONUS

SELECT THE CORRECT FIRST GOALSCORER IN THE SECOND HALF
AND GET A **20% BONUS ON YOUR WINNINGS!**

MORE MARKETS AVAILABLE

- CORRECT SCORE
- WHICH TEAM WILL SCORE FIRST
- FIRST/LAST GOALSCORER
- HANDICAP BETTING



GAME ON!

BETS CAN BE PLACED AT THE STADIUM OF LIGHT IN ANY ONE OF THE LADBROKES BETTING KIOSKS

+18. Bets must be placed at half-time. Ladbrokes rules apply. Bet responsibly. gambleaware.co.uk

JIM MONTGOMERY

MONTY'S MESSAGE

SUNDERLAND'S ALL TIME RECORD APPEARANCE MAKER **JIM MONTGOMERY** WRITES FOR YOU.

» I TRAVELLED TO LAST WEEK'S GAME AT ASTON VILLA AND THOUGHT WE SHOULD HAVE WON. I SEE ALL OF SUNDERLAND'S HOME GAMES BUT THIS WAS THE FIRST AWAY GAME I'VE BEEN TO THIS SEASON. DICK MALONE AND I HAD BEEN SENT TO COVENTRY ON THE FRIDAY NIGHT TO TALK TO A GROUP OF SUNDERLAND SUPPORTERS SO WE ARRANGED TO GO TO THE MATCH AT VILLA PARK.

We were unfortunate to see a good goal ruled out for offside when Nicklas Bendtner put away a quality cross from Seb Larsson. James McClean supplied a stream of crosses and was unlucky not to score when he prodded a close range chance over the bar. We might have won by two or three but it'll come if we continue to produce chances as we did last week. Everyone knows we need a striker and with Larsson and McClean providing service from both wings I'd have thought playing up front for Sunderland would be an inviting prospect.

I was impressed with Simon Mignolet again and apart from only taking one point when I thought we could have had all three, I enjoyed the day. I talked to Doug Ellis and it was good to catch up with Bob and Sue Murray.

Today's match with Bolton is an important one for us. We've had a lot of draws recently

and need a win to push ourselves back into the top half of the table. Bolton's win at Villa on Tuesday night will have given them a boost and it will be another difficult game but they all are at this level and it is up to Sunderland to do whatever is needed to come out on top. I fancy us to win today but Bolton are fighting for their lives as Wolves were so it will be anything but easy.

The visit of Bolton brings back memories of the game where we won promotion in 1976. That was a fantastic occasion when the euphoria around the ground was incredible. After we'd won the cup three years earlier people thought we'd go up but it wasn't to be and before we won promotion we lost people of the calibre of Dennis Tueart and Dave Watson.

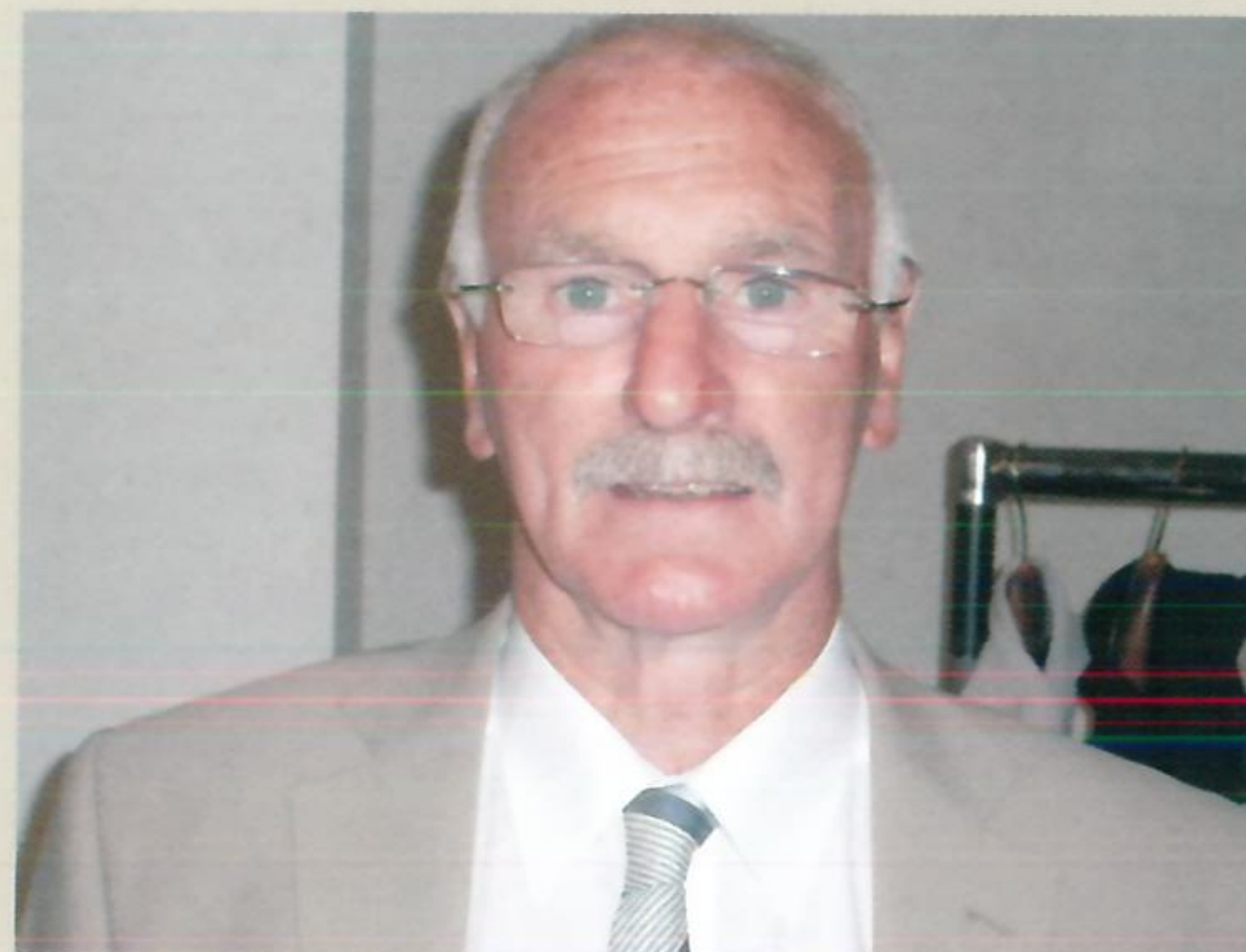
Earlier in the same season I remember big Sam Allardyce scoring with a header against me from something like 16-yards out. It was one hell of a header! Bolton of course are the club Charlie Hurley eventually joined when he left Sunderland, Stan Anderson managed there and Jimmy Davison went there as well. Back then Bolton were at Burnden Park and like Sunderland have long since moved into a modern stadium fit for the Barclays Premier League. They're fighting hard to stay in the top-flight so today's game will be another tough one.



Sponsors of
the former
players' table

True
Colour
Digital

Courtesy • Professionalism • Respect

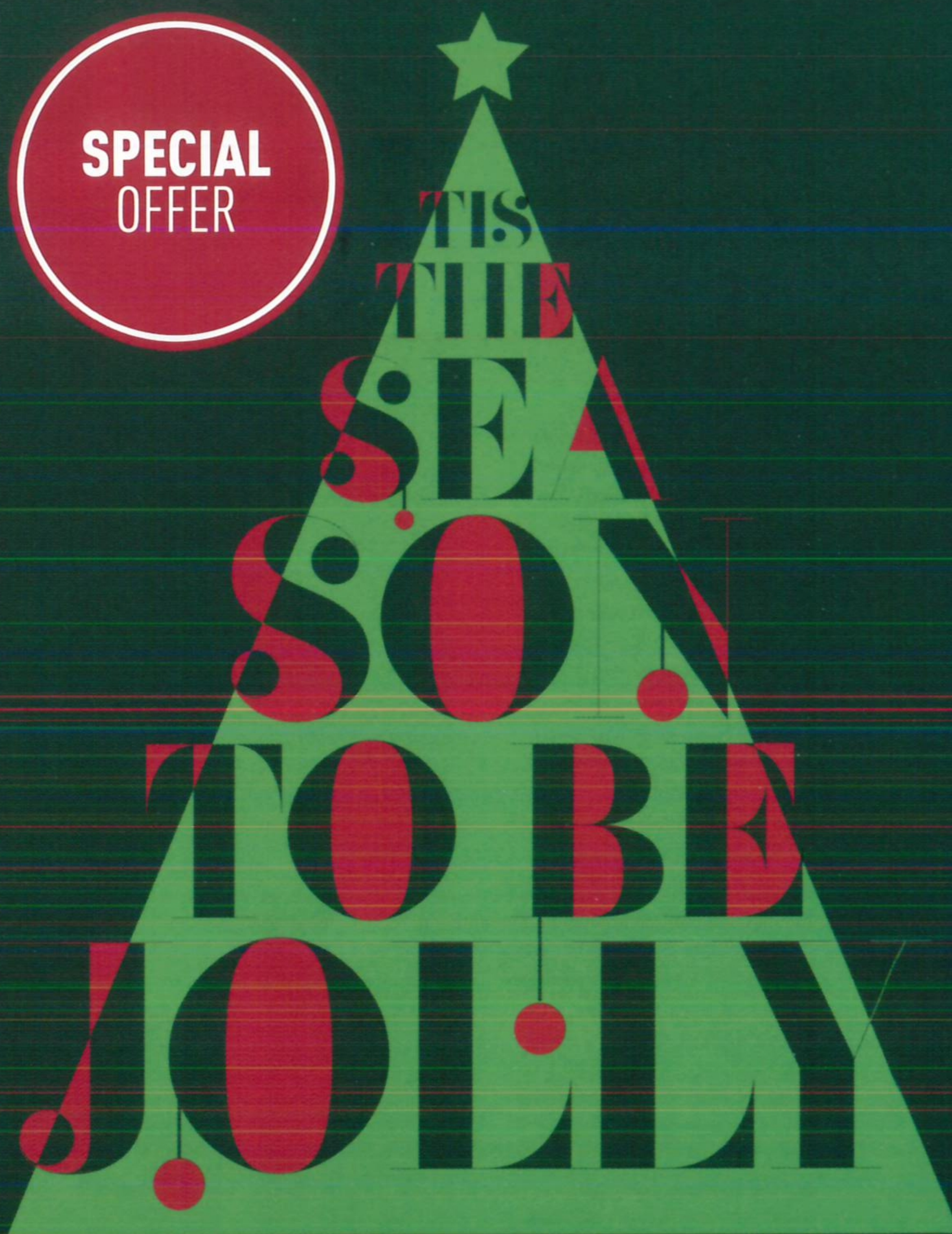


NEIL MARTIN IN ACTION AGAINST NEWCASTLE IN 1967 AND, ABOVE, AT THE START OF THIS SEASON

» MONTY'S GUEST - NEIL MARTIN

My guest this afternoon is Neil Martin. Neil was a top class Scotland international centre forward who scored 20 top-flight goals in a season in 1966-67, plus another half dozen in the cup for good measure. Altogether Neil scored 46 times in 99 games for Sunderland. After starting with his local side in Scotland, Tranent, who he still is strongly involved with, Neil played for Alloa, Queen of the South and Hibs before coming to Sunderland. Later he moved on to Coventry, Forest, Brighton and Palace becoming the first man to score 100 League goals in both England and Scotland. Only Kenny Dalglish has equalled Neil's achievement.

**SPECIAL
OFFER**



CHRISTMAS 2012 AT THE
STADIUM OF LIGHT



BOOK YOUR 2012 CHRISTMAS PARTY BEFORE 14TH MAY AND RECEIVE A FREE HALF BOTTLE
OF WINE FOR EVERY PERSON IN YOUR PARTY PLUS THE ORGANISER GOES FREE*

*MINIMUM OF 15 GUESTS

CALL **0871 911 1500** OR EMAIL **CHRISTMAS@SAFC.COM**

PLEASE QUOTE XMAS 212 WHEN BOOKING

WOMEN'S TEAM CHAIRMAN MAURICE ALDERSON REPORTS

SUNDERLAND WOMEN

SUNDERLAND LADIES BLASTED THEIR WAY TO THE LEAGUE CUP FINAL WITH THE COMPREHENSIVE DESTRUCTION OF A PLUCKY BLACKBURN ROVERS AT THE HETTON CENTRE LAST SUNDAY.

A near full house witnessed the 8-0 demolition of Rovers who never gave up despite being totally outclassed from start to

finish. Keira Ramshaw led the way with a hat-trick while Beth Mead, returning from injury, scored a brace. Kelly McDougall, Robin Chidester and Sophie Williams completing the scoring. The Lady Black Cats now face Leeds United Ladies in the final at Northampton on May 6th.

Manager Mick Mulhern wore a broad smile after the game as he spoke about the victory: "We

SUNDERLAND WFC: FIXTURES					
DATE	OPPONENT	H/A	COMP	VENUE	KO
Sun 29 April	Cardiff City	A	League	University of Wales	1pm
Sun 6 May	Leeds Utd	H	Premier League Cup Final	Northampton FC	2.30pm

prepared very well for this game and that was the key. We were excellent all over the pitch and I'm delighted to be in another cup final."

Meanwhile the previous week Sunderland's injury ravaged team travelled to Aston Villa for the second successive week hoping to get the result they needed to keep their Premier League title ambitions on track. A repeat of the previous week's victory always looked difficult as both teams battled strongly in very difficult conditions and in the end the 0-0 scoreline was a fair result. Sunderland travel to Cardiff City Ladies

tomorrow needing victory to ensure that they remain champions ahead of Leeds United Ladies.

For match details and all the latest news and views visit www.sunderlandwfc.co.uk

PLAYER PROFILE: BECKY SALICKI (DEFENDER)

Becky was a member of the championship winning team last season and another player hoping to establish herself in the first-team squad. Becky can also play in goal if needed.



SUNDERLAND CELEBRATE BETH MEAD'S GOAL AGAINST BLACKBURN AND REACH THE FA WOMEN'S PREMIER LEAGUE CUP FINAL

ARE YOU IN THE HOT-SEAT?

HOT-SEAT COMPETITION



Congratulations to the Hotseat winner at the last home game against Wolves, Mr. Dominic Ritchie who was in the North East corner, row 42, seat 209 and won a Revel Wind jacke worth £44.99.

WIN A LENA HOODIE WORTH £34.99

A 'LENA' HOODIE WORTH £34.99 IS TODAY'S PRIZE FOR WHICHEVER PROGRAMME READER WE FIND IN THE HOT SEAT. THESE ARE AVAILABLE IN SIZES 8-16 AND CAN BE BOUGHT VIA SAFC.COM AS WELL AS AT THE STORE@THESTADIUM, IN THE CLUB STORE IN THE GALLERIES IN WASHINGTON AND ALSO AT THE SAFC STORE WITHIN DEBENHAMS IN THE BRIDGES IN SUNDERLAND CITY CENTRE.

At every game we announce a 'Hot-Seat' number at half-time. If we announce your seat number you could have won a prize providing you have a copy of today's match programme and you claim the prize before half-time is

over. Please be aware that row and seat numbers can be the same in different stands. To be our winner you must have a ticket for the correct stand with the correct row and seat number as well as your programme.

Prizes must be claimed at half-time. If you are not at your seat when the number is read out please report to the nearest steward before half-time is over showing them your ticket and programme and ask them to report your claim immediately to Lee Marshall of the P.R. dept. No prize claims can be accepted after half-time. You must ensure any steward you have reported your claim to has reported your claim to Lee Marshall at half-time. If there is any problem with you claiming your prize at half-time you must have the number of the steward you spoke to if contacting the club after the match. Without this we will not be able to verify your claim but in any case all being well prize winners should receive their prize on the day of the game. Good luck!





Credit where credit's due

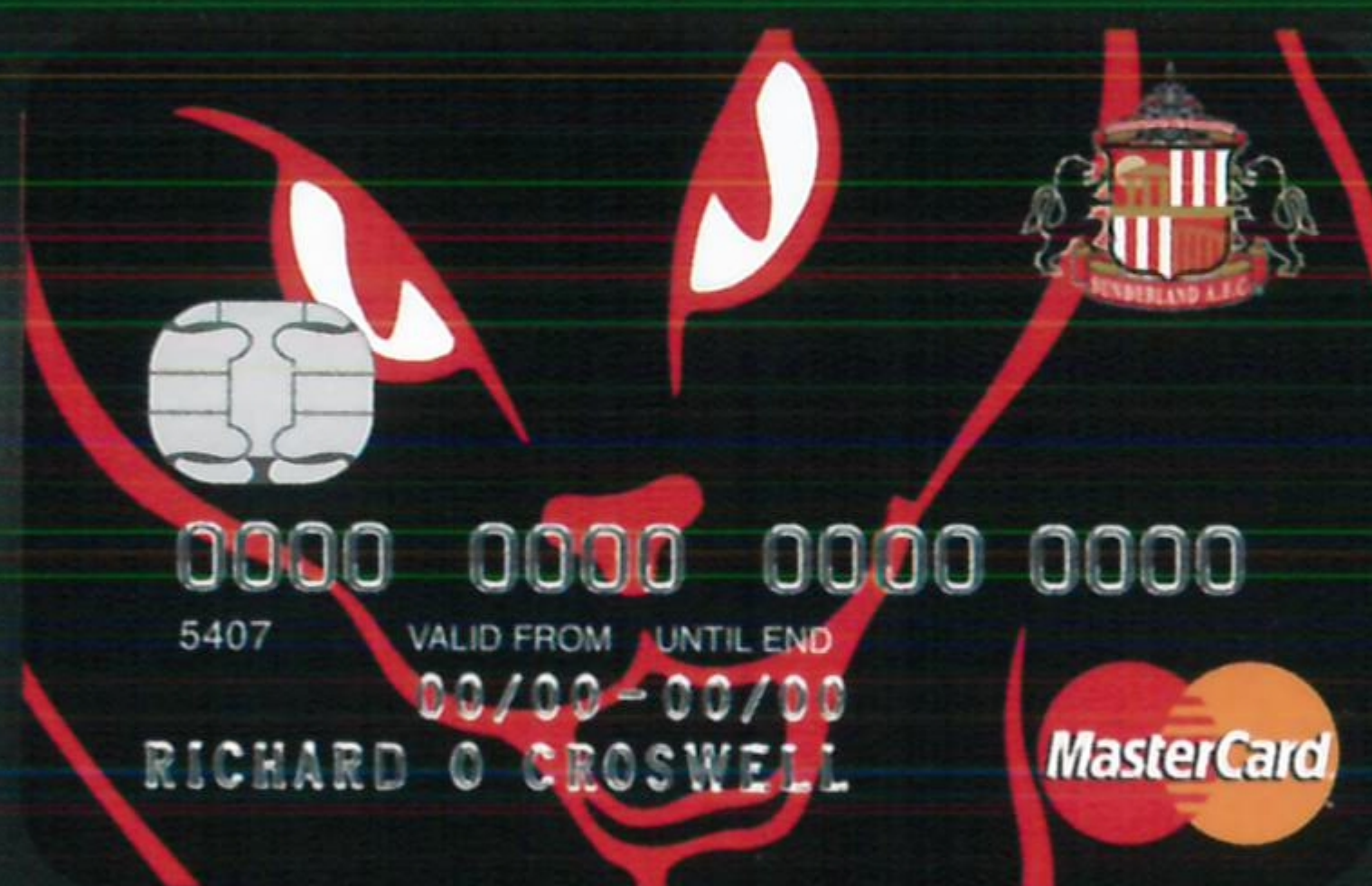
Get the credit you deserve

Apply for a Sunderland AFC Credit Card and
enjoy 0% interest for 12 months.*

**Apply now by calling 0800 028 2440
and quote "Sunderland Advert"**

The Club advise you to
leave at least 28 days for
your credit card application
to be processed

tombol



support as you spend

**Representative example
16.9% p.a. (variable)
on card purchases.
This is equivalent to 16.9%
APR *** representative
(variable) based on a credit
limit of £1200.**

**0% for 12 months* on balance
transfers made within the first 90
days of your account opening
(3% handling fee). ****

**0% for 3 months* on card
purchases****

*FROM THE DATE YOUR ACCOUNT IS OPENED

**IF YOU HAVE TWO OR MORE PROMOTIONAL OFFERS AT THE SAME RATE, WE WILL USE YOUR PAYMENTS TO REDUCE ANY PROMOTIONAL BALANCE WITH THE LOWEST STANDARD RATE LAST, EVEN IF THIS OFFER ENDS FIRST. THIS COULD MEAN THAT ANY SUCH BALANCE MAY NOT HAVE BEEN REDUCED BY THE TIME THE STANDARD RATE APPLIES TO IT. PROMOTIONAL RATES WILL NO LONGER APPLY FROM THE BEGINNING OF ANY STATEMENT PERIOD DURING WHICH YOU HAVE BREACHED YOUR TERMS AND CONDITIONS.

***AS WE TREAT EACH CUSTOMER AND EACH APPLICATION ON AN INDIVIDUAL BASIS, THE APR AND THE INTEREST RATE WE OFFER ARE DETERMINED BY THE DETAILS YOU SUPPLY, ALONG WITH AN INDEPENDENT VERIFICATION OF CREDIT AND REPAYMENT HISTORY. YOUR PERSONAL APR WILL BE 16.9% APR (VARIABLE), 20.9% APR (VARIABLE) OR 24.9% APR (VARIABLE). OVER TWO THIRDS OF OUR CUSTOMERS WILL GET OUR REPRESENTATIVE RATE OF 16.9% APR VARIABLE.

THE SUNDERLAND AFC CREDIT CARD IS ISSUED BY MBNA EUROPE BANK LIMITED, A BANK OF AMERICA COMPANY, REGISTERED OFFICE: STANSFIELD HOUSE, CHESTER BUSINESS PARK, CHESTER CH4 9QQ. REGISTERED IN ENGLAND NUMBER 2783251. MBNA'S CONSUMER CREDIT ACTIVITIES ARE LICENSED BY THE OFFICE OF FAIR TRADING (OFT) AND MBNA'S GENERAL INSURANCE ACTIVITIES ARE AUTHORISED AND REGULATED BY THE FINANCIAL SERVICES AUTHORITY (FSA). CREDIT IS AVAILABLE, SUBJECT TO STATUS, ONLY TO UK RESIDENTS AGED 18 OR OVER. WE WILL MONITOR OR RECORD SOME PHONE CALLS.

HOME & AWAY

TICKET NEWS



SING YOUR HEARTS OUT FOR **THE LADS.**



Barclays Premier League **FULHAM vs SUNDERLAND AFC**

@ Craven Cottage

Sunday 6th May 2012

Kick-off: 2pm

**Tickets for this fixture
are now SOLD OUT.**



Barclays Premier League **SUNDERLAND AFC vs MANCHESTER UNITED**

@ Stadium of Light

Sunday 15th May 2012

Kick-off: 3pm

Tickets are now on
sale to supporters
with valid customer
numbers only. This is
a category A fixture.

HOW TO BUY

Online: www.safc.com

Telephone: 0871 911 1973

In-person: Stadium of
Light, Ticket office
Mon-Fri 10am-5:30pm,
Sat 9am 1pm, matchdays
10am - kick-off

By post: Sales, PO Box
165, Sunderland SR5 1WF

Ticket prices: Category
B games from £10 under
16s, £18 under 22s/over
65s, £25 adults
Category A games from
£13 under 16s, £23 under
22s/over 65s, £30 adults
*All major credit and debit
cards accepted (excluding
American Express, Diners
and Visa Electron).
Booking fee payable.*

SEASON CARD HOLDERS 2012-13

All season card holders for season 2012-13 will
receive a new card. Please ensure the Ticket
Office have the correct address on file if you
have changed your address since receiving your
renewal pack.

Telephone 0871 911 1973 or email ticket.office@safc.com



MANCHESTER
UNITED MAY
NEED POINTS AT
SUNDERLAND
TO RETAIN THE
TROPHY

SAFC APPEARANCES AND GOALS 2011-2012																
PLAYER	LEAGUE				LEAGUE CUP				FA CUP				TOTALS			
	Start apps	Sub apps	Tot apps	Goals	Start apps	Sub apps	Tot apps	Goals	Start apps	Sub apps	Tot apps	Goals	Start apps	Sub apps	Tot apps	Goals
P Bardsley	26	2	28	0	0	0	0	0	6	0	6	1	32	2	34	1
N Bendtner	24	2	26	7	0	0	0	0	2	0	2	0	26	2	28	7
T Bramble	7	0	7	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	7	0	7	1
W Bridge	3	4	7	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	2	0	5	4	9	0
W Brown	20	0	20	1	1	0	1	0	1	0	1	0	22	0	22	1
F Campbell	4	5	9	1	0	0	0	0	2	3	5	1	6	8	14	2
L Cattermole	21	0	21	0	1	0	1	0	3	0	3	0	25	0	25	0
J Colback	26	6	32	1	1	0	1	0	3	1	4	1	30	7	37	2
Ji Dong-won	1	17	18	2	0	1	1	0	0	1	1	0	1	19	20	2
A. Elmoahady	7	9	16	1	1	0	1	0	0	2	2	0	8	11	19	1
C Gardner	20	8	28	3	1	0	1	0	6	0	6	0	27	8	35	3
C Gordon	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
M Kilgallon	7	1	8	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	8	1	9	0
S Kyriakos	2	1	3	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	3	1	4	0
S Larsson	32	0	32	7	1	0	1	0	6	0	6	1	39	0	39	8
J McClean	17	3	20	4	0	0	0	0	6	0	6	1	23	3	26	5
D Meyler	1	6	7	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	2	0	1	8	9	0
S Mignolet	27	0	27	0	0	0	0	0	6	0	6	0	33	0	33	0
J O' Shea	26	0	26	0	0	0	0	0	5	0	5	0	31	0	31	0
K Richardson	26	3	29	2	1	0	1	0	4	0	4	1	31	3	34	3
S Sessegnon	33	0	33	7	1	0	1	0	5	0	5	1	39	0	39	8
M Turner	20	1	21	0	0	0	0	0	4	1	5	0	24	2	26	0
D Vaughan	16	5	21	2	1	0	1	0	2	2	4	0	19	7	26	2
K Westwood	8	1	9	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	9	1	10	0
C Wickham	5	10	15	1	0	1	1	0	1	1	2	0	6	12	18	1

SAFC CAREER APPEARANCES, GOALS AND INTERNATIONAL RECORD																			
PLAYER	LEAGUE				LEAGUE CUP				FA CUP				TOTALS				FULL INTERNATIONALS		
	Start apps	Sub apps	Tot apps	Goals	Start apps	Sub apps	Tot apps	Goals	Start apps	Sub apps	Tot apps	Goals	Start apps	Sub apps	Tot apps	Goals	Nation	Apps	Goals
P Bardsley	114	13	127	3	5	0	5	1	9	2	11	1	128	15	143	5	Scotland	11	0
N Bendtner	24	2	26	7	0	0	0	0	2	0	2	0	26	2	28	7	Denmark	45	17
T Bramble	29	1	30	1	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	30	1	31	1			
W Bridge	3	4	7	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	2	0	5	4	9	0	England	36	1
W Brown	20	0	20	1	1	0	1	0	1	0	1	0	22	0	22	1	England	23	1
F Campbell	26	17	43	5	4	0	4	1	3	4	7	3	33	21	54	9	England	1	0
L Cattermole	62	4	66	0	2	0	2	0	3	0	3	0	67	4	71	0			
J Colback	32	12	44	1	1	1	2	0	4	1	5	1	37	14	51	2			
Ji Dong-won	1	17	18	2	0	1	1	0	0	1	1	0	1	19	20	2	S Korea	16	8
A. Elmoahady	33	19	52	1	2	0	2	0	0	3	3	0	35	22	57	1	Egypt	49	1
C Gardner	20	8	28	3	1	0	1	0	6	0	6	0	27	8	35	3			
C Gordon	87	0	87	0	4	0	4	0	3	0	3	0	94	0	94	0	Scotland	40	0
M Kilgallon	13	2	15	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	14	2	16	0			
S Kyrgiakos	2	1	3	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	3	1	4	0	Greece	61	4
S Larsson	32	0	32	7	1	0	1	0	6	0	6	1	39	0	39	8	Sweden	39	5
J McClean	17	3	20	4	0	0	0	0	6	0	6	1	23	3	26	5	Rep of Ire	1	0
D Meyler	14	8	22	0	0	0	0	0	2	2	4	0	16	10	26	0			
S Mignolet	50	0	50	0	2	0	2	0	7	0	7	0	59	0	59	0	Belgium	9	0
J O' Shea	26	0	26	0	0	0	0	0	5	0	5	0	31	0	31	0	Rep of Ire	75	1
K Richardson	123	10	133	14	6	1	7	0	8	0	8	1	137	11	148	15	England	8	2
S Sessegnon	46	1	47	10	1	0	1	0	5	0	5	1	52	1	53	11	Benin	38	7
M Turner	64	1	65	2	3	0	3	0	5	1	6	0	72	2	74	2			
D Vaughan	16	5	21	2	1	0	1	0	2	2	4	0	19	7	26	2	Wales	28	1
K Westwood	8	1	9	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	9	1	10	0	Rep of Ire	8	0
C Wickham	5	10	15	1	0	1	1	0	1	1	2	0	6	12	18	1			



LONG DISTANCE, TEAM AND INDIVIDUAL GOALS

» WITH THE LADS CURRENTLY ENDURING A RATHER BARREN SPELL IN FRONT OF GOAL IT IS AN OPPORTUNE MOMENT TO REFLECT ON THE QUALITY OF THE GOALS THAT THE TEAM HAS SCORED THIS SEASON, PARTICULARLY FROM DISTANCE.

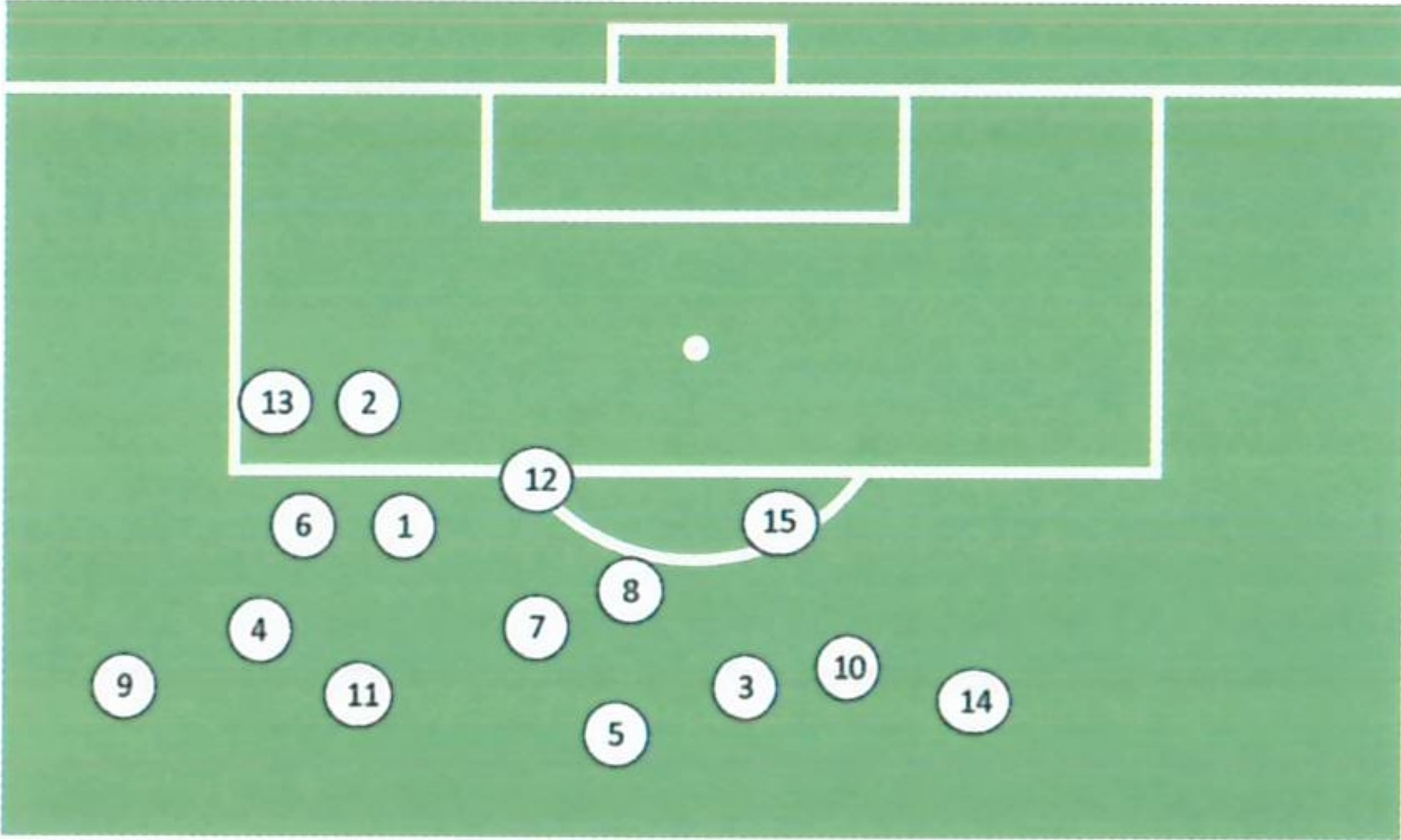
Fifteen goals have been struck from the edge of the box or beyond which is almost a third of the 50 goals scored in all competitions this season. I have included Kieran Richardson's strikes against Arsenal in the FA Cup and at Norwich



earlier in the season for their spectacular value because they were struck from similar positions on the angle despite both being just inside the box. There have also been several memorable individual goals this season, with Stephane

Sessegnon's superb effort at home to Swansea possibly the pick, but there have also been fine strikes from Seb Larsson in the opening day draw at Anfield, Conor Wickham's first top-flight goal here against Aston Villa, James McClean's winner at Stoke and, of course, Ji Don-wong's New Year's Day glorious moment. Sess also finished superbly for the second goal at Loftus Road during Martin O'Neill's first away win in charge. Seb Larsson finished off one of the team goals of the season to put the Lads 3-1 up at the Etihad and Sess was at the end of other flowing passages of play to score at Wigan and at home to Norwich and QPR.

Accurate deliveries from the flanks also resulted in headed goals for Ahmed Elmohamady at home to West Brom and three for Nicholas Bentdner, one in each game against QPR and one at Manchester City. Sess surprisingly nipped in between Dunne and Collins to head a late equaliser against Aston Villa and Wes Brown opened his account for the club with a deft header to win the game at QPR. Kieran Richardson took the corners that resulted in the Brown and Bentdner goals at QPR and flag kicks from Larsson were also converted by Sess at Bolton, Titus Bramble at home to Stoke and McClean in the FA Cup at Peterborough.



LONG DISTANCE OPERATORS - SPECTACULAR STRIKES 2011-12			
NO	PLAYER	OPPONENTS	VENUE
15	Seb Larsson	Man City	A
14	Phil Bardsley	Everton (FAC)	A
13	Kieran Richardson	Arsenal (FAC)	H
12	Jack Colback	Middlesbrough (FAC)	A
11	Fraizer Campbell	Norwich	H
10	Craig Gardner	Swansea	H
9	Seb Larsson	Peterborough (FAC)	A
8	David Vaughan	Wigan	A
7	Craig Gardner	Wigan	A
6	Seb Larsson	Blackburn	H
5	David Vaughan	Blackburn	H
4	Kieran Richardson	Wolves	A
3	Seb Larsson	Arsenal	A
2	Kieran Richardson	Norwich	A
1	Seb Larsson	Stoke	H



FIRST-TEAM

CAT STATS

» KEY
* = SOLD OUT
ESPN
Sky = Sky TV
G = Goalkeeper
RB = Right back
RWB = Right wing back
LB = Left back
LWB = Left wing back
CB = Centre back
DM = Defensive midfield
RM = Right midfield
CM = Centre midfield
AM = Attacking midfield
LM = Left midfield
S = Striker

= yellow Card
= red card
= 1st Sub
= 2nd Sub
= 3rd Sub
w = withdrawn
Sub = Used Sub
U = Unused Sub
CC = Carling Cup
FAC = FA Cup
SQUAD NO. GREEN = goalkeeper
SHADED BLACK = left the club
SHADED BLUE = out on loan
Matching colours indicate players substituted and the players who replaced them. The number indicates the minute of the substitution.



Ladbrokes

Bet of the Day

It's the end of the Jumps Season today at Sandown. O'Neill trains GALAXY ROCK in the Gold Cup at 3.10.

Special Double:

GALAXY ROCK + SUNDERLAND WIN

@ 14/1

GAME ON!"

DATE	F/A	KO/REF	H/A	OPPONENTS	POS	ATT	SCORERS
AUGUST 2011							
Sat 13	D 1-1	P. Dowd	A	Liverpool	-	45,018/1,877*	Suarez (13), LARSSON (56)
Sat 20	L 0-1	H. Webb	H	Newcastle United	-	47,751*/2,700*	R. Taylor (62)
Tue 23	L 0-1 aet	A. D'Urso	A	Brighton & Hove Albion (CC2)	-	17,019/1,205	Mackail-Smith (95)
Sat 27	D 0-0	M. Halsey	A	Swansea City	13th	19,138/1,571	-
SEPTEMBER 2011							
Sat 10	L 1-2	L. Probert	H	Chelsea	16th	36,699/2,610	Terry (18), Sturridge (51), JI (90+1)
Sun 18	W 4-0	K. Friend	H	Stoke City	12th	32,296/655	BRAMBLE (5), WOODGATE (OG 11), GARDNER (27), LARSSON (58)
Mon 26	L 1-2	C. Foy	A	Norwich City (SKY)	14th	26,109/943	Barnett (31), Morison (48), RICHARDSON (86)
OCTOBER 2011							
Sat 1	D 2-2	L. Mason	H	West Bromwich Albion	16th	34,815/899	Morrison (4), Long (5), BENDTNER (24), ELMOHAMADY (26)
Sun 16	L 1-2	H. Webb	A	Arsenal (SKY)	17th	60,078*/1,425*	Van Persie (1, 82), LARSSON (30)
Sat 22	W 2-0	M. Jones	A	Bolton Wanderers	12th	24,349/4,438	SESSEGNON (83), BENDTNER (90+3)
Sat 29	D 2-2	C. Foy	H	Aston Villa	14th	37,062/1,556	Petrov (20), WICKHAM (38) , Dunne (84), SESSEGNON (89)
NOVEMBER 2011							
Sat 5	L 0-1	L. Mason	A	Manchester United	14th	75,570/1,826*	Brown (OG 45+3)
Sat 19	D 0-0	A. Taylor	H	Fulham	15th	37,688/350	-
Sat 26	L 1-2	K. Friend	H	Wigan Athletic	16th	37,883/310	LARSSON (8) , Gomez (pen 47), Di Santo on (90 + 3)
DECEMBER 2012							
Sun 4	L 1-2	P. Dowd	A	Wolverhampton W. (SKY)	17th	25,145/1,273*	RICHARDSON (52) , Fletcher (79 & 81)
Sun 11	W 2-1	P. Walton	H	Blackburn Rovers (SKY)	16th	39,863/319	Vukcevic (17), VAUGHAN (84), LARSSON (90+2)
Sun 18	L 0-1	M. Dean	A	Tottenham Hotspur	16th	36,021/1,660	Pavlyuchenko (61)
Wed 21	W 3-2	Marriner/Atwell	A	QPR	15th	16,167/1,281	BENDTNER (19), SESSEGNON (62) , Helguson (63), Mackie (67), BROOKS (88)
Mon 26	D 1-1	H. Webb	H	Everton	14th	43,619/1,976	COLBACK (26) , Baines (49 pen)
JANUARY 2012							
Sun 1	W 1-0	K. Friend	H	Manchester City (SKY)	13th	40,625/2,093	JI (90+3)
Tues 3	W 4-1	M. Dean	A	Wigan Athletic	10th	15,871/3,183	GARDNER (45+4), McCLEAN (55) , Rodallega (62), SESSEGNON (73), VAUGHAN (84)
Sun 8	W 2-0	M. Atkinson	A	Peterborough United (FAC R3) (ITV)	-	8,954/2,511	LARSSON (47), McCLEAN (57)
Sat 14	L 0-1	P. Dowd	A	Chelsea	11th	41,696/1,377	Lampard (13)
Sat 21	W 2-0	C. Foy	H	Swansea City	10th	36,904/1,028	SESSEGNON (14), GARDNER (84)
Sun 29	D 1-1	K. Friend	H	Middlesbrough (FAC R4) (ITV)	-	33,275/3,103	Robson (15), CAMPBELL (56)
FEBRUARY 2012							
Wed 1	W 3-0	L. Mason	H	Norwich City (SKY)	8th	34,476/810	CAMPBELL (20), SESSEGNON (28), AYALA (OG 53)
Sat 4	W 1-0	M. Atkinson	A	Stoke City	8th	27,717/1,319*	McCLEAN (60)
Wed 8	W 2-1 aet	A. Taylor	A	M'boro (ITV) (FAC R4 replay)	-	26,707/4,253*	COLBACK (42) , Jutkiewicz (56), SESSEGNON (112)
Sat 11	L 1-2	N. Swarbrick	H	Arsenal	9th	40,312/2,902	McCLEAN (70) , Ramsay (75), Henry (90+1)
Sat 18	W 2-0	H. Webb	H	Arsenal (FAC R5) (ITV)	-	26,042/4,060	RICHARDSON (39), OXLADE-CHAMBERLAIN (OG 77)
Sat 25	L 0-4	C. Foy	A	West Bromwich Albion	9th	25,311/2,600*	Odemwingie (3 & 48), Morrison (41), Andrews (90)
MARCH 2012							
Sun 4	D 1-1	M. Dean	A	Newcastle United (ESPN)	12th	52,388*/2,650*	BENDTNER (pen 24) , Ameobi (90+1)
Sat 10	W 1-0	A. Taylor	H	Liverpool	8th	41,661/2,340	BENDTNER (55)
Sat 17	D 1-1	A. Marriner	A	Everton (FAC-R6) (ITV)	-	38,875*/5,900*	BARDSLEY (12) , Cahill (23)
Tues 20	L 0-2	M. Atkinson	A	Blackburn Rovers	9th	20,056/1,733	Hoilet (58), Yakubu (86)
Sat 24	W 3-1	M. Jones	H	QPR	8th	37,128/908	BENDTNER (40), McCLEAN (70), SESSEGNON (75) , Taiwo (79)
Tues 27	L 0-2	L. Probert	H	Everton (FAC-R6 Replay)	-	43,140/6,034	Jelavic (24), Vaughan (OG 57)
Sat 31	D 3-3	P. Dowd	A	Manchester City	9th	47,007/1,381	LARSSON (31 & 55) , Balotelli (43 pen & 85), BENDTNER (45) , Kolomojcew (88)
APRIL 2012							
Sat 7	D 0-0	C. Foy	H	Tottenham Hotspur	9th	39,355/2,693	-
Mon 9	L 0-4	K. Friend	A	Everton	11th	32,249/772	Gueye (52), Pienaar (74), Osman (75), Anchibe (79)
Sat 14	D 0-0	M. Jones	H	Wolverhampton Wanderers	9th	37,476/559	-
Sat 21	D 0-0	A. Taylor	A	Aston Villa	10th	32,557/1,622	-
Sat 28		15:00	H	Bolton Wanderers			
MAY 2012							
Sun 6		14.00	A	Fulham		NEW DATE!	
Sun 13		15:00	H	Manchester United			



Photographic contributors: Empics, Action Images, Getty Images, North News, Blades, Keith Chapman and Rob Mason.

Advertising: David Mitchell 0871 911 1236

Subscriptions and single orders: Online at safc.com (click on shop at the top of the page and then click on gifts & souvenirs) or tel 0871 911 1973. In case of difficulty call 0871 91 1228.

Red and White is the official match programme of Sunderland AFC.

Produced by: Ignition Publications.

Printed by: HPM

DIARY DATES



Monday 30th

Supporters' Player of the Year event

Friday 4th

Reserves v Manchester United (Away - Altrincham FC) Kick-off: 7.00pm **NB New date**

Saturday 5th

Under-18s v Huddersfield Town (Away) Kick-off: 12.00noon

Sunday 6th

FULHAM (Away) Kick-off: 2.00pm

Friday 11th

Champagne Gourmet Evening Champagne and canapés on arrival followed by five-course gourmet dinner with coffee and Champagne from the Duval-Leroy Estate and live entertainment from Dan James - £54.50 per person

Sunday 13th

MANCHESTER UNITED (Home) Kick-off: 3.00pm

Wednesday 16th

Final Stadium tour until 30th July

*Kick-off times are subject to late change especially for Under-18 and reserve games.
See page 77 for ticket details.*

For Conference & banqueting bookings call or book online: 0871 911 1500/ EVENTS@SAFC.COM WWW.SAFC.COM/CANDB

Find us on facebook www.facebook.com/stadiumoflight

Since promotion in 2007 Red and White has either been Programme of the Year or runner up in every season and once again this season has been named Programme Monthly Programme of the Year.

Last season Red and White was named Programme of the Year by the Soccer Club Swap Shop. It also took the award for Best Value and was Programme of the Year runner up in the Northern Programme Club awards which also gave Red and White the Editor of the Year trophy. Last season also saw Red and White win the 'Best Read' award from Programme Monthly magazine which also named your programme as runner up in the Programme of the Year award.

Over the years some awards bodies have been short lived but since 1985-86 your SAFC programme has won 17 Programme of the Year accolades, been runners up eight times and has won 11 other awards

Contact us: Red and White, Stadium of Light, Sunderland. SR5 1SU

SAFC main switchboard: 0871 911 1200

No part of this publication may be reproduced or transmitted in any form or by any means or stored in any retrievable system of any nature without prior written permission of Sunderland Association Football Club except for permitted fair dealing under the Copyright, Designs and Patents Act 1988. Applications for permission for other use of copyright material should be made to Sunderland AFC. Full acknowledgement of publisher and source must be given at all times. The views expressed within are the views of the individual authors and not necessarily those of Sunderland AFC.

ADAM BOG DAN

» CROSSWORD SOLUTION (FROM P43)

	1		2		3		4		5																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																	
	L		O		F		T		H		O		U	S	E																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																											
6															7																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																											
	W				F						U			L		R																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																										
8																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																										
	A		C		T		O		R																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																	
	L				E				B						G		I																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																									
10																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																										
	T		A		N		K		I		N		I																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																													
									N				R																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																													
13																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																										
	M		E		14				15		E		M		E	R		16		A		L		17		D																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																
	A						R									L																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																										



By appointment to
the national football team of England
Supplier of boots and apparel
Manchester, England



Speciali

*Tailored
by England*





SUNDERLAND

	PLAYED	SCORED
1	Craig Gordon	
2	Phil Bardsley	
3	Wayne Bridge	
4	Michael Turner	
5	Wes Brown	
6	Lee Cattermole	
7	Sebastian Larsson	
8	Craig Gardner	
9	Fraizer Campbell	
10	Connor Wickham	
11	Kieran Richardson	
12	Matt Kilgallon	
14	Jack Colback	
15	David Vaughan	
16	John O'Shea	
17	Ji Dong-won	
18	David Meyler	
19	Titus Bramble	
20	Keiren Westwood	
22	Simon Mignolet	
23	James McClean	
24	Trevor Carson	
25	Sotirios Kyrgiakos	
27	Ahmed Elmohamady	
28	Stephane Sessegnon	
38	Craig Lynch	
42	John Egan	
52	Nicklas Bendtner	

WEEKEND FIXTURES

Everton v Fulham
 Stoke City v Arsenal
 Swansea City v Wolves
 WBA v Aston Villa
 Wigan Athletic v Newcastle Utd
 Norwich City v Liverpool (5.30)
 Chelsea v QPR (Sunday)
 Spurs v Blackburn (Sunday)
 Man City v Man Utd (Monday)
 Watford v Middlesbrough
 Hartlepool Utd v Leyton Orient

BARCLAYS PREMIER LEAGUE



27.04.12	P	W	D	L	F	A	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts
Man Utd	35	14	2	2	50	19	12	3	2	36	13	54	83
Man City	35	16	1	0	51	10	9	4	5	36	17	60	80
Arsenal	35	12	3	3	36	14	8	2	7	31	29	24	65
Newcastle	34	11	5	2	29	15	7	3	6	24	27	11	62
Tottenham	34	11	3	3	35	17	6	5	6	22	22	18	59
Chelsea	34	10	3	3	33	20	6	7	5	23	18	18	58
Everton	34	8	3	6	21	14	5	6	6	21	24	4	48
Liverpool	34	5	9	3	20	14	7	1	9	20	23	3	46
Fulham	34	9	5	4	34	25	3	5	8	11	19	1	46
West Brom	35	6	2	9	19	19	7	4	7	22	28	-6	45
Sunderland	35	7	6	4	24	14	4	5	9	18	27	1	44
Swansea	35	7	6	4	22	14	4	4	10	17	31	-6	43
Norwich	35	6	6	5	26	27	5	4	9	21	33	-13	43
Stoke	34	7	5	4	21	16	4	4	10	11	32	-16	42
Aston Villa	35	4	6	8	19	24	3	9	5	17	26	-14	36
QPR	35	6	5	7	23	25	3	2	12	16	32	-18	34
Wigan	35	3	7	7	15	25	5	3	10	19	35	-26	34
Bolton	34	4	3	10	20	33	6	0	11	19	34	-28	33
Blackburn	35	6	1	11	26	32	2	6	9	21	41	-26	31
Wolves	35	3	2	13	19	43	2	6	9	15	32	-41	23

TODAY'S OFFICIALS

	REFEREE	Lee Probert
	ASSISTANT REF	Jake Collin
	ASSISTANT REF	Glenn Turner
	4TH OFFICIAL	Andy Woolmer

BLACK CATS' LAST MATCH

Aston Villa 0 Sunderland 0



TROTTERS' LAST MATCH

Aston Villa 1 Bolton 2

RED & WHITE LIVE

Use your smartphone on the QR code here to see the actual team line ups.

These will be available 25 mins before kick off. See page 4 for details.



BOLTON WANDERERS

PLAYED SCORED

	Adam Bogdan	1
	Gretar Rafn Steinsson	2
	Marcos Alonso	3
	Fabrice Muamba	6
	Chris Eagles	7
	Stuart Holden	8
	Tuncay Sanli	9
	Martin Petrov	10
	Ricardo Gardner	11
	Zat Knight	12
	Kevin Davies	14
	Tyrone Mears	15
	Mark Davies	16
	Ivan Klasnic	17
	Samuel Ricketts	18
	Nigel Reo-Coker	19
	Robbie Blake	20
	Darren Pratley	21
	Jussi Jaaskelainen	22
	David Ngog	24
	Dedryck Boyata	25
	Rob Lainton	26
	Chung-Yong Lee	27
	Marvin Sordell	29
	Ryo Miyaichi	30
	David Wheeler	31
	Tim Ream	32
	Mark Connolly	33
	Joshua Vela	37
	Joe Riley	39
	Jay Lynch	43

SAFC's official club magazine

LEGION OF LIGHT

Available for £ 2.95 in store@thestadium. Subscriptions from £14.

Go to safc.com (click on shop, then publications) or call 0871 911 1228.



SOCCER CLUB SWAP SHOP
2010-2011 Programme of the Year

Official Club Sponsor

tombola

Official Kit Sponsor



safc.com



18

